

Videmus

Omnia



55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2000

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As I write this, it is the 19th day of the 11th month in the year 1999, the last truly odd day that we'll see before the reunion in Dayton in 2003.

With that bit of trivia, and as we close out this millenium, I want to tell you all what an honor it has been to serve as your president for the last three years. And, as you will find out as you read on, you're stuck with me for 18 months more.

For those of you who did not make it to the Reno reunion, you missed a great time. **Don and Barbara Gurney** were wonderful host and hostess and kept us well entertained, while providing a great atmosphere to renew friendships and tell lots of war stories. (A complete wrap-up of the activities follows this missive.) So, I'll say: "we all thank the Gurneys for their hard work and the outstanding get together."

I had an opportunity to speak to two high school assemblies the day before Veterans Day, and in preparing

for this event I did some research. After reading Tom Brokaw's book, "*The Greatest Generation*," and Steven Ambrose's book, "*D-Day*," as well as seeing the movie, "*Saving Private Ryan*," I was again amazed at the important part the members of the 55th played in saving the free world and insuring a stronger, more magnificent United States of America.

But, I always came back to two heroes of the 55th we lost this year. So, I told of the events that resulted in **Col Bill Lawley** being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1944, and **LtCol Tom Buono** being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1944. Both were on missions deep inside Germany. Both were severely wounded, and both continued to defend, protect and save the lives of their crewmen while risking their own.

At each pause, I looked into the eyes of those young people, and I don't think I remember ever such total silence as they seemed to hang on every word. It was quite moving and

convinced me that many of the young people of today really do care and understand what the Greatest Generation had to go through just to survive until they were old enough to vote.

As we come to the end of the 20th Century, I want to tell each of you all how much I appreciate the sacrifices you've made so that our children and their children can continue to experience the freedom and liberty they enjoy in this great nation.

Linda and I also want to wish everyone the happiest of holiday seasons and a brighter, happier, healthier and more prosperous New Year.

I hope we'll see many of you at the 55th Birthday Ball on January 29th, 2000 here in Omaha. If we don't see you here, then God willing and the creeks don't rise, we'll see you in Melbourne, FL at the next reunion in the spring of 2001.

Videmus Omnia, Bill Ernst



RENO REUNION RECAP

The 55th SRW Association's 20th reunion in Reno 30 September-2 October was another resounding success. **Don and Barbara Gurney** and their troop of helpers deserve a tremendous amount of gratitude from the 325 members and guests who attended. Harrah's Casino/Hotel, hard by the Truckee River, served as the headquarters for many of the festivities. The locale in central downtown Reno permitted revelers to take advantage of other attractions, casinos and shows. The weather was perfect – warm days, cool evenings. The hospitality suite was ready for business on Wednesday, the 29th for early arrivers and, as always, never lacked for “customers” eager to renew friendships, tell war stories and generally enjoy each other, whatever the time of day or night.

Thirty-two intrepid duffers, hackers and big hitters on Thursday, 30 September made the Sierra Sage golf outing at Stead AFB exciting. It was especially notable for **Fritz Hyde** who played a personal best round. **Sparky Adams** provided additional hubbub and self frenzy when he lost his prize balls (golf, that is. A more detailed account of this event appears later.)

Later that day, four busloads of 55thers, plus those who drove, made the trip to historic Virginia City for sight seeing, gaming and other assorted mischief.

Another bus caravan on Friday toured colorful parts of Reno and historic Carson City, Nevada's surprisingly elegant capital city. An obligatory side leg went by the infamous ‘cribs’ incongruously scattered among several of the area's scruffiest junkyards. A couple of the ‘working ladies’ took time from their busy schedules to wave at the troops in hopes that some had brought Viagra with them. From this venue of legal sin, the buses proceeded on the scenic drive into the Sierras to Lake Tahoe. To first-time visitors, viewing the 26-mile long body was similar to looking out upon the Atlantic. There the entourage boarded the paddle wheeler *M.S. Dixie* for a two-hour cruise over the sunlit waters to Emerald Bay and back. Saturday morning's seminars, once again ably orchestrated by **Vice President Robb Hoover**, our own Renaissance man, drew a large crowd to hear four presentations. **LtCol Brian Bergdahl**, formerly of the 55th Wing and now 15th Recon Squadron commander, spoke on the capabilities of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), Predator. His presentation included a video of actual war footage from the Predator's missions.

NYU **Professor Bill Burrows**, author of “*Deep Black*” and other books, regaled the audience with the history of space reconnaissance, among other stories. He presently is conducting research for a book on strategic reconnaissance for

which he has interviewed a number of 55th veterans.

LtCol Ron Maynard of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office at the Pentagon presented an update on recent efforts with the Russians in unveiling archival holdings on victims of Cold War shootdowns.

Col Joe Mudd, 55th Operations Group Commander, briefed a comprehensive overview of the current state of the Wing, its worldwide missions, and planned Rivet Joint aircraft modifications.

Following the seminars, **President Ernst** convened the general membership meeting. He reviewed the state of the Association, business conducted by the Board of Directors since the previous reunion and opened the forum for further business. **Sam Pizzo**, chairman of the nominating committee, presented a slate of nominees for Association Board of Directors. The nominees were elected by acclamation by the membership. (See below for names of Board members and officers).

Future reunion sites and dates were discussed. It was generally agreed that the Association would have a reunion in Dayton, OH to coincide with the opening of the new Cold War Annex to the Air Force Museum, whether or not it fits in with the usual 18-month cycle. The Annex will feature a former 55th RB-47H, now undergoing renovation, as its centerpiece.

The next scheduled reunion will be in the spring of 2001 in or near Melbourne, FL, with **John and Karla Caban** and **Barney and Renee Clary** the organizers. Start your planning now to attend.

The gala Saturday night banquet was held in Harrah's Automobile Museum. The over 300 attendees enjoyed touring the vintage auto exhibits, and the tables were arrayed down the two main street tableaux of the museum. After **President Ernst** welcomed the guests and made appropriate introductions, **Fred Glass**, ex-officio Association chaplain, gave his usual reverent and humorous invocation.

Robb Hoover, who is the Association History Committee chairman, presented a lithograph and Distinguished Cross citation, honoring **Tom Buono** for his WWII heroism, to members of the Buono family. Robb also recognized the passing of **Col (Ret) William Lawley**, another former 55ther, and a Medal of Honor recipient for saving the lives of his crewmen.

Tony Martinez and Joe Gyulavics paid a moving tribute to **Col (Ret) William (Bill) Riggs**, who served as 55SRW Commander longer than any other. He passed away in April.

Robb made a toast that included a passionate statement of well deserved appreciation to all the ladies of the organization for the integral role they played in the successes of members' careers and lives.

Major General (USAF Ret) Charles Metcalf, Director of the USAF Museum, was the featured speaker. His remarks noted the 55SRW's place in history, and he told of the plans for the Cold War Annex to open, possibly, in 2003.

The dinner was magnificent, the setting memorable and the ceremonies fitting. All in all, a superb windup to yet another outstanding reunion!

Contributed by Max Moore

* * * * *

REUNION GOLF OUTING

It was a stalwart group of 32 members (including one brave spouse) who headed out from Harrah's in the early morning to attempt to tame the Stead golf course. Right off the bat, it was evident that it was going to be a rough day as a group of 'leprechauns stole' the golf balls destined to be awarded to the winning players.

This problem was solved when our intrepid leader, Bill Ernst, said, "No problem. I'll replace the purloined balls." So off they went to attack par.

Upon arriving at Stead, the golfers discovered that tee times were delayed due to frost on the greens, which was no problem except that most of the golfers had a tight schedule to finish and return to Harrah's in time for the Virginia City tour.

This proved to be overcome by to the skill and fortitude of the

Fightin' 55th veterans who charged into the valley of sand traps, gullies, cactus grass, rocks, sloping greens and things that slithered on the ground, with nothing on their minds except to win.

One of the veterans, **Fritz Hyde**, shot the best game of his life (even par) to win low gross, and **Jim Caldwell** had a great game and took home the low (Callaway) net prize. Great going, you two!

In spite of the challenges, all hands finished and made it back in time for the Virginia City tour.

And would you believe that those pesky 'leprechauns' returned the 'stolen' golf balls to Sparky's room. Wonder where they found them? *Contributed by Sam Pizzo and Sparky Adams*

* * * * *

YOUR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Duly elected to the Association Board of Directors at the reunion membership meeting were:

Bill Ernst, President
Robb Hoover, Vice Pres.
Errol Hoberman, Treasurer and Membership Chairman
Ben White, Secretary
Sparky Adams
Don Griffin, Webmaster
Craig Kibbe
Jim Maloney
LtCol Bo Marlin
Max Moore
Sam Pizzo
Charley Waters
CMSgt Richard Casey

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

At the Association Board of Directors meeting in Reno on 29 September, and at the membership business meeting on 2 October, the following Bylaw amendments were proposed and passed: Rewrite Bylaw

3. DIRECTORS to read:

3.1 Membership: The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Board of **Elected Directors and Permanent Directors.**

3.1.1 **Elected Directors:** There shall be not less than seven nor more than thirteen **Elected Directors.** The 55th Wing Commander may nominate two volunteer active duty personnel for election to the Board.

3.1.2 **Permanent Directors: Directors who have served four or more elected terms, will be automatically granted "Permanent" status unless they request otherwise. When confirmed in permanent status by the President, these Directors will be exempt from elections and will not count against the elected number restriction. With the exception of not being eligible for President, Permanent Directors will have all rights, responsibilities and privileges of Elected Directors.**

This amendment was proposed by Vice President Robb Hoover with the following rationale: (1) To reward Board members by establishing a special status for those who have served faithfully for four terms.

(2) Enhance viability of the 55th SRW Association by ensuring sufficient Board of Director positions are available to accommodate the newer generations of 55th veterans.

Bylaw 3.3 was amended to read "The term of each **Elected** Director shall extend until the next reunion membership meeting." Bylaw 3.4 was amended to read as follows: "The Board will elect from its members the Executive Officers, per **Bylaw 3.1.2 and** Bylaw 5.1, and conduct other business that may come before the Board."

In further explanation, a four term elected Board member could chose to stand for election if he/she desires, rather than accept 'permanent' status, thus becoming eligible for the Presidency of the Association.

* * * * *

NEW COMMANDER FOR THE 55th WING

The Air Force announced on 2 December 1999 that **Colonel (BrigGen - select) Gregory H. Power** has been named as the next commander of the 55th Wing. Colonel Power currently is Commander, 5th Bomb Wing (B-52H) at Minot AFB, ND. The current 55th Commander, **Brigadier General Ronald F. Sams**, will become the Inspector General, Headquarters, Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, VA. The change of command will be 3 February 2000.

* * * * *

QUESTION OF THE MILLENIUM

Who is the author of this statement?

"It's not hard to understand now that, given the political judgements of the time, the Vietnam war was better left unfought. No other national endeavor requires as much unshakable resolve as war. If the government and the nation lack that resolve, it is criminal to expect men in the field to carry it alone. We were accountable to the country, and no one was accountable to us. But we found our honor in our answer, if not in our summons."

* * * * *

BO MARLIN ON COLONELS LIST

LtCol Bo Marlin, the 55th Wing active duty officer on the Association Board, is an O-6 selectee on the promotion list issued 14 October 1999.

A board member for nearly three years, Marlin's regular participation in Board deliberations has been conscientious and valuable.

His selection to the War College is pending and he will leave the Board upon departing the 55th Wing. An active duty successor will be recruited then.

* * * * *

A CHRONICLE OF LONGEVITY

Many 55thers have stories about their service in the 55th. We have all heard: "I was at Forbes for five years and moved with the Wing to Offutt." "This is my third tour with the Wing." "I served nine years at Offutt in the Wing."

And most everyone knows that **Reg Urschler** entered the Wing a second looie and left as a one star (over a span of 25 years and three separate tours). Others, such as **Tom Moncure** and **Fred Schapker**, spent 20 or more years in the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth interrupted only by an unaccompanied tour to Shemya, Korea or some other armpit.

When I relate my Air Force career to someone, the short version usually goes like this: nearly 28 years active duty, 25 in SAC and **more than 23 years in the 55th**. The latter part often is greeted with some astonishment that anyone could be in one unit for so much of a career. It may or may not be a record for service in the 55th, but I've had many a comment that my tenure was likely unmatched. So, I have done the research to put forth to any challenges.

While at Mather AFB, CA (and when I met my still lovely bride, **Carol**) for Advanced Bomb/Nav Training, on 3 November 1959, I received orders assigning me to the 338th SRS of the 55SRW effective 19 January 1960 with a reporting date of 12 July 1960. What is

significant here is that I was on the books of the 338th from that time and, after various TDYs, delays enroute and leaves, I eventually arrived at Forbes on 27 June. After over two years of ATC and SAC training crapola, I was finally going operational!

Upon reporting into the old two-story, wooden WWII building housing the 338th, the commander was on leave, the ops officer was flying, so I was directed to the squadron navigator, one **Major John Wilson**, a wiry, grizzled Texan, as I recall. Spiffy in my pressed, board stiff 505s, shoes gleaming, blond flattop trimmed, I was the epitome of AFR 35-10, a diminutive Steve Canyon-type in every way.

Saluting smartly in front of Major Wilson's desk, I stated, "**Lt Max R. Moore**, navigator, reporting for duty, sir." Major Wilson looked up from his paperwork and gave me a steely stare. I received no return salute, no handshake, no "Welcome to the squadron; glad to see you," - whatever. His first words to me were: "Where the (expletive) have you been?" Somewhat deflated and taken aback, I detailed my last six months as quickly as I could, relating that I had been to Combat Crew Training schools, survival training at Stead, took leave to be married and had just arrived from a honeymoon trip. Major Wilson's response was, "Who told you you could get married?" By now the tittering and stifled laughs outside the

cubicle were very evident and I knew this tough ol' bird was having sport at my expense. Since I held up without sweating or soiling myself, the rest of the interview and day went smoother and more businesslike.

Four days later, 1 July 1960, **Major Will Palm's** crew was shot out of the sky by a Russian MiG over the Barents Sea, and I wondered, "What the (expletive) kind of outfit am I in?" (The story of how I selected my assignment out of Mather, and how green I was at the time, is a tale unto itself.)

Moving right along, I went to the 343rd on 17 Dec 60 and had my first memorable encounter with then-Capt **Sam Pizzo**, the squadron navigator, who was not yet a legend, not yet infamous. (Space does not allow for that anecdote, either, but it was not to be my only memorable one about Sam.)

Six-plus years later, two children born at the Forbes hospital, and after being crewed with aircraft commanders **Bud Bonham**, **Don Thomas**, **Reg Urschler**, **Jimmy P. Haynes** and **Bill Klausner**, et al, I departed the 55th and Forbes with the family on 10 February 1967 in route to become an RC-135 navigator at Yokota AB, Japan.

An interesting sidelight here: at Forbes, my last aircraft commander, **Vic Prislusky**, copilot **Dave Frutchey** and I were crewed in early 1966 in the RB-47. We were assigned as a crew to Castle AFB, CA for 135 training, then PCS to Yokota

and a subsequent unit PCS to Kadena AB on Okinawa. We served together for nearly three years in two different aircraft systems at three separate bases (and I'm not even counting the TDYs). Ours was also the **first SAC crew ever** to PCS to Kadena. It was also our distinction to fly the first completed Combat Apple mission in the Gulf of Tonkin (Benny Allen's crew had to abort into U Tapao, Thailand on the initial sortie), and we eventually flew the 1000th Combat Apple mission, as well.

Reassigned back to the 55SRW, now located at Offutt AFB, NE, as of 10 September 1969, once again in the 343rd.

LtCol Jumpin' Joe Gyulavics was the squadron commander and **LtCol Don Jolly** the ops officer. I went on **Jimmy Jones'** crew ("I just want to be an LC AC on an RC"), then "**Smilin' Bob**" **Arnold's**, and here's a kicker – Vic Prislusky, who had gone to Vietnam after the Kadena tour, came to Offutt and wound up in the 55th Stand/Eval Division, saw to it that I was once more be assigned to his crew.

Eventually, I went on to wing staff jobs with Command Airlift Support (CSA-affectionately known as 'Chicken Stuff Airlines'. Motto: "Unarmed, Unafraid, Unaware, and Couldn't Care Less"); chief of mission development (scheduling); and ended my career serving four wing commanders as the Wing

Executive Officer. I retired 1 October 1985, ending my last 16 years on active duty at Offutt.

It is also my privilege and good fortune to have a continued relationship with the 55th Wing even in my retirement years.

To recap the point of this narrative, and there is one, my tenure of **assigned time** in the 55th SRW began 19 Jan 60 and ran through 10 Feb 67; resumed 10 Sep 69 and continued through 1 Oct 85. By my count, **that equals 23 years, one month and 24 days, give or take a few hours**. It was a great life and, for a navigator especially, there was always job satisfaction in doing a **real** mission in the greatest outfit in the U.S. Air Force, then and now.

There it is. Are there any challengers out there?

Videmus Omnia, Forever!
Contributed by Max Moore

* * * * *

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 31 December 1999, the Association has cash assets of \$14,668 of which \$5,284 is invested in a certificate of deposit

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of 1 December 1999 the Association had 880 members in good standing, of which 147 are non-dues paying widows. This is down from 1005 members reported for May 1999.

127 members chose not to renew their memberships even with a postcard reminder mailed in October. They will **not** be included in the current roster **nor** receive newsletters. Please note that **dues are still only \$10.00 per year and, if you pay in advance, \$25.00 for three years**.

As always, **the latest year for which your dues are paid can be found in the upper right corner of the mailing label**. (Now go look for it in the wastebasket.)

If your dues expired in 1999, please remit new dues to **55SRW Association** and mail to **Errol Hoberman** at your earliest convenience. His address is: **6441 Avenida Del Galvez, Navarre, FL, 32566-8911**.

Any recently new member of the Association who has not received his/her Association dual wing shield pin, please write to Errol and ask for it. Replacement or additional pins for yourself or spouses, et al, are available for \$5.00 per pin. *Financial and Membership status provided by Errol Hoberman, Treasurer.*

* * * * *

B-47 HOUR PINS AVAILABLE

Association treasurer still has available, 1000 hour and 3500 hour B-47 tiepins for sale at \$25.00 per pin. This is the last time these pins will be offered by this organization.

Only three pins were sold in the last two years, so there must not be a demand out there.

After a suitable period, any remaining pins will be sold to the B-47 Stratojet Association.

* * * * *

To some guys, a honeymoon is a vacation before going to work for a new boss.

* * * * *

55TH WING BIRTHDAY BALL

The 55th Wing will hold its 22nd Birthday Ball on 29 January 2000 at the Embassy Suites near Omaha's Old Market. The event will celebrate the 49th anniversary of the Wing's founding unit, the 55th Pursuit Group at Hamilton Field, CA on 15 January 1941.

The theme of the ball, "*The People ARE The Wing*" will focus on the many and varied personnel, professional skills and specialties which comprise the Wing and perform its myriad worldwide missions.

The featured speaker will be **Dr. Rebecca Grant**, a noted air power expert who has served on the Secretary of the Air Force staff group and on the AF Chief of Staff operations group. She has worked at Rand Corp. and founded her own business. She is reported to be a dynamic speaker.

The program will include honoring **LtGen Thomas Keck**, a former 55th Wing Commander

at Offutt, who is the current Vice Commander, Air Combat Command, (and yes, he is the son of **LtGen (Ret) James Keck** who retired as Vice CINCSAC); and **LtGen Philip Ford**, current Vice Commander, US Strategic Command at Offutt, who served as an RC pilot in the Wing in the early 70s.

The 55th SRW Association Board urges all members who can, to attend. The affair is always done in grand military tradition and commemorates the patriotic heritage of this great outfit. Historically, 60-80 Association members attend the ball. Out-of-towners who come are treated in official and accommodating fashion by the Wing. It is a great chance to interact with this generation of active duty types. The ranks may be fewer, but they are just as dedicated.

The Association membership chairman provides the 55th Wing Protocol Office with an invitation roster, and those invitations were in the mail shortly after Christmas. The list has been culled of the names of those who have indicated in the past that their names be removed, or of those who have not responded to past invitations over time.

For those of you who **do** receive invitations, **please RSVP whatever your intentions**, even if it is to be removed from the list, can't come but want to be retained, etc. The Association roster does **not** indicate military rank nor marital status, and

Protocol does not have the time or personpower to research same. So, be indulgent with them on how the envelope may be addressed.

If you want to attend and did **not** received an invitation by 7 January 2000, contact Bill Ernst, Robb Hoover or Max Moore and they will see to it that one gets to you.

Contributed by Max Moore

* * * * *

CARDS AND LETTERS

Via e-mail to the Board:

I believe we have missed the boat in (telling our members about) some of the wing's **personnel** who were real heroes. I have corresponded with **Margaret Glover** (widow of former 55th Commander **John Glover**) concerning his decorations. Here's what I learned in a nutshell:

First Lieutenant John G. Glover was one of nine Army Air Forces officers awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action by General MacArthur in Australia. A recent story from Australia told how he, in an attack on the Japanese at Buna Island, 100 miles from Port Moresby, strafed ground installations and silenced an anti-aircraft battery.

Army DD Form 214 information:

Army DSC 1 Sep 42,
Purple Heart 27 Nov 42,
Silver Star 12 Dec 42,

Four Air Medals, fourth cluster, 20 Oct 44,
DFC 1 Nov 44.

I'm quite sure that he also was awarded several Legions of Merit.

He was in the first group of fighter pilots sent to the Pacific after the Pearl Harbor attack. He was shot down near Darwin, Australia in October or November 1942 (probably wounded and received his Purple Heart).
Sparky Adams

Comment: Col Glover was also the most sensitive, honorable and unpretentious wing commander I ever met. After the Cuban missile crisis was over, during which time 55th crews had reconnoitered the Atlantic and Caribbean looking for the Soviet ship *Grozny*, reportedly carrying nuclear warheads bound for Cuba. And during intensified reconnaissance by the Wing, three aircraft and crews were lost in crashes.

Col Glover was about to retire (I believe forcibly) and he was making farewell visits to the 55th detachments.

On his way to Incirlik, Turkey, he stopped off at Torrejon AB, Spain, where as a captain, I was responsible for monitoring the detachment at Incirlik for the 16th AF commander. Col Glover did not know me, but when I told him that I was a former crewmember at Forbes, he sat and we reminisced at some length and he grieved about the three lost crews. I thought he seemed

weary, exhausted. He knew the names of all of the crewmembers and their wives' names. It was, for me, an emotional and memorable experience.

Ben White

Via letter to Ben White

1959. I remember trying to get a ride from Topeka, KS to Chicago, IL to visit my parents. After bugging everyone for months, I was called and notified that a ride was available to Glenview Naval Air Station on Lake Michigan.

I was informed to be in operations at Forbes AFB at 0800. I was loaded on a tanker. The ride was a little longer than I expected. We first had to refuel some fighter aircraft. We finished that job. We continued on to the North Pole to drop a transponder and then headed for Glenview. The pilot practiced touch and go landings, heading out over Lake Michigan.

I still have not found out who arranged the trip. I do not remember the names of the crew. I did spend most of the time with the boom operator. He was good, good, good refueling. That was one of the best experiences I ever had. But it took a lot longer than the two-hour flight I anticipated.

Do you have a new address or phone number for **General Holbury**?

Ray Zabielski

Regrettably, we do not have a current address or telephone number for General Holbury. If any of our readers

have same, would appreciate having that info.
Ed.

Via letter to Ben White

Dear Ben, I just found out yesterday that George Murphy died this past June.

I called, though we are doing all right, to tell him about **Grady**, and heard the sad news from his daughter. He (George) had been our very dear and close friend since he first came into our lives in 1948. His daughter said he had a heart attack and went very quickly.

Grady is home again and recovering, tho they say it will be months before he feels like his old self again. He had a "slight" heart attack and with it – double pneumonia. Not a good combination, I can tell you. But he's as tough as nails and his attitude is so great – so upbeat. This and the prayers pulled him thru. He's weak and on oxygen but getting stronger every day. Think of you often – hope all goes well with you. Grady sends his best. So do I. Sincerely –
Rene Stapp.

Rene, you and Grady have many friends in the 55th SRW Association. We wish the very best for both of you. Note: Grady Stapp was an AC at Forbes in the 338th SRS in the late 50s. **Ed**

Via letter to Errol Hoberman

Dear Mr. Hoberman:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff of The New SAC Museum, I would like to

thank you and the 55th SRW (Association) for your generous contribution of \$300, designated for the Cold Warriors Symposium brochure.

The Symposium promises to be an interesting day with an excellent schedule of speakers.

We appreciate your support and friendship, and that of the 55th SRW (Association).

Sincerely,

Wayne W. Schmidt

Executive Director

Comment: Mr. Schmidt is no longer the Museum Director. Ed.

Via e-mail from Board member Jim Maloney to all members of the Board. He relayed it after receiving it from Mark Pestana, former 55th and member of the Association.

I've come full circle, so to speak. I hope you can open the attached photos of the NASA DC-8 "Flying Lab," TDY at Kiruna, Sweden for the month. We are flying ozone and aerosol sampling missions in the arctic, trying to find answers to the questions concerning cause and effect of human-induced or natural hydrocarbons on atmospheric health, global warming, etc. Thirty-five scientists and their experiments fill the plane. We fly 8-10 hour missions, sometimes to the Greenland coast, sometimes to Spitzbergen, and some-times into Russian airspace...yes, that's right: Franz Josef Land, Kola Peninsula, over Novaya Zemlya and points east. Of course,

getting approval for such over flights, with "scientific instruments" on board, was no small task. And on every mission we have our friendly Russian Air Force navigator sitting in the jump seat, talking to Murmansk Radio, among others, insuring our clearances are understood...AND approved. We all know what the alternative can be. And I reflect on the events that have occurred in the past, especially as I fly over the lonely stretches of the Barents Sea...again. Go 55th!

Mark Pestana

Mission Manager

NASA Airborne Science Program

Via e-mail to Ben White

Hello,

I'm Tom Hanley, a former Forbes AFB "brat" and I have written a humorous book about growing up at Forbes in the 60s, titled "Flyboys." If you are interested, check it out at http://www.xlibris.com/html/new_titles.html

Regards, **Tom H.**

Via letter to Errol Hoberman

Errol,

I am somewhat disappointed with the limited information contained in *Videmus Omnia* relating to the death of our old friends.

It would be nice to know the following:

Where, so that we might send a card.

Cause of death and date.

Immediate family surviving.

Where and when they served with 55th. I think most families would be glad to provide the foregoing.

Dan King

Your suggestion is an excellent one and to the extent that we are able, we shall follow it. In many cases, the name and address and phone number, and e-mail address (if there is one) of the deceased and name of spouse are in the Association roster. (Updated version soon to be published.)

We request all members reporting the demise of Association members include the information mentioned above, especially period(s) served in the Wing, squadron, crew position, and any other data of general interest. Ed.

* * * * *

ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF THE MILLENIUM

The quotation is taken from Republican presidential candidate **Senator John McCain's** recently published autobiography, "*Faith of Our Fathers.*"

* * * * *

More OER material:

If he were more stupid we would have to water him twice a week.

Has delusions of adequacy.

T A P S



Robert E. Davis, died at home 15 October 1999. Widow: Ginny. A navigator at both Forbes and Offutt, his ACs included Klausner and Griffin.

Lt Kevin Colling, member of the US Navy Blue Angels. Aircraft accident, 28 October 1999. He was the son of Jan and Howard Colling, a former copilot in the 343rd at Forbes where Kevin was born in February 1967. Address: 2382 T Lane, Cedaredge, CO 81413

James (Jim) Greene died 22 March 1999. He was a long time RB-47 EW at Forbes.

Dorothy Greene, widow of James (Jim) Greene, died 5 October 1999.

Surviving sons: Jim Greene 4924 Timberview, Flower Mound, TX 75028, and Richard Greene, 39W 190 Cliff Rte., Elgin, IL 60123.

George Murphy, died June 1999. Widow: Marie. Address: 10 Sunset Bay Drive, Salem, SC 29676-4623, Phone (864) 944 8818.

Liz Rais, wife of Tony Rais, AC in 343rd at Forbes, died 1 October 1999. Address: 23846

Rotunda Rd, Valencia, CA 91355. Phone (805) 259 2535.

Tanya Shackleford, wife of Robert (Stan) Shackleford, former RC-135 navigator. Died 15 May 1999. Address: 634 Sunhaven, San Antonio, TX 78239. Phone (210) 655 6746.

Judyth Smith wife of Keith W. Smith, longtime 55th EW. Died 26 August 1999. "We were together for 35 years and she shared the workload of all our activities, one of which was planning and running the 55th SRWA Reunion in Colorado Springs in May 1998." Address: Dix Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80911. Phone (719) 391 1493.

Hiroshi (Harry) Tabata died 8 July 1999. Widow: Bobbie. Harry was an RC-135 navigator in the 70s at Offutt. Address: 4910 Glasgow Ave, Bellevue, NE 68005.

Joan Wilson, former wife of Edward (Ned) Wilson, died 4 September 1999, Bellevue, NE

Guy Winstead died in July 1999. Widow: Patricia. He was a past commander of the 55th at Offutt.

Thomas B. Wright died 26 January 1999. Widow: Louise. Address: 717 Murphysboro Lake Rd, Murphysboro, IL 62966. Phone (618) 684 4483. He was a RB-47 navigator in the 38th SRS at Forbes.

* * * * *

Judging by statistics, front seat drivers aren't so smart either.

* * * * *

JOY BOYS AND PARTY GIRLS (ATTENDEES AT THE RENO WINGDING)

They were there and you weren't.

Adams, Sparky & Connie
Agronis, Gil & Ellen
Aylsworth, Warren & Dete
Andrijeski, Franc & Arlene
Back, George & Gerrie
Bailey, Bruce & Fay
Baker, Mike & Pat
Barkalow, Hank & Joy
Barker, John & Nona
Barrett, Burt & Charleen
Bateman, Bill & Marilyn
Beauvis, Moe & Chris
Bergdahl, LtCol Brian
Bergmann, Phil & Bess Tejada
Beyer, Jim & Barbara
Blount, Harris &
Norma Kussman
Boothby, George & Diana
Borchard, Curt & Cynthia
Bowker, Bill & Jean
Boydston, Ted & Marlene
Brockel, Don & Jo
Buono, Della, Jeanne &
Jody Falk
Burrows, Bill
Caldwell, Richard & Eve
Carbaugh, Phil & Mickey
Carretto, Frank & Ann
Caselton, Jean & Sue
Censullo, Fox
Clancy, Orville & Betty

Clark, Rich & Thelma
Cocks, Sam & Hazel Tobin
Cofield, Ralph & Joanie
Considine, John & Mikki
Cooper, Bob & Nadeane
 Fulcomer
Crowson, Earl & Leona
Danner, Harry, Judy
 Dudie & Louise
 Joseph
Dant, Richard & Mary
Davis, Marge
Davis, Tom & Lorraine
Dowd, George
Dragon, Eugene & Lucy
Driver, Tim
Drost, John & Reese
Dube, Buck and Mitzi
Dubuy, Hank & Sandy
Dziejowski, Rene
Eddins, Doug, Craig &
 Ann McFate
Ernst, Bill
Everling, Tom & Monica
Everling, Tom, Jr & Carol
Farquhar, LtCol John
Flora, Earl & Flossie
Fortin, Paul & Jane
Frische, Sherwood & Belva
Gardner, Don & Joan
Garrity, Tom & Francine
Gaston, Orville & Mary
Giambri, Phil & Margareta
Glass, Fred & Marne
Glover, Margaret
Goeden, Sam & Pat
Gresalfi, Tom & Carol
Griffin, Don & Marsha
Grisby, Don & Wanda
Gurney, Don & Barbara
Gyulavics, Joe & Dottie
Hagstrom, Jim & Marg Carr
Harris, Joel
Hicks, Frank & Le Wanda
Hoberman, Errol & Sue
Hoover, Robb & Shirley

Hubbard, Robert
Hutzler, Craig & Patti
Hyde, Fritz & Marty
Jenkins, Don
Johnson, George & Martha
Johnson, John & Dee
Johnson, John & Toni
Kennedy, Ham & Pat + 2
King, Larry & Deanna
Knecht, Ron & Donna
Knief, Duke & Jackie
Kniffin, Charlotte
Korman, Leonard
Kosty, Joe & Mary Ann
Kresge, Clete & Marge
LaFlair, Larry
Lawrence, Floyd & Doris
Leeman, Dave & Jan
Lewis, Bill (the younger)
Liller, Charlie, Joan & Sara
Lowman, Bill
Marlin, LtCol Bo & Ann
Martin, Daniel
Martinez, Tony
Martini, Jim
Maynard, LtCol Ron
McKechnie, John & Mary
McMahon, Bob & Pat
Metcalf, MGen (Ret.) Charles
Michael, Al & Peggie
Miller, Paul B. & Judy
Mitchell, Phil & Doris
Moncure, Alice
Moore, Max & Carol
Morss, Bud & Rose
Muck, Don & June
Munger, Bob
O'Kelley, Jim, Jean, Gayle,
 Denise & Minn Jones
Osborne, Phil & Jan
Owens, Roy & Charlene
Pacala, Tony & Judy
Palmieri, Elvio & Darlene
Phillips, Pat & Roxann
Pizzo, Sam & Mary
Potter, Pete & Treva

Powers, John & Pat
 Prody, Mark, Charlotte, Paul,
 Mary Ann & Joann Baker
Rafferty, Betty
Reed, Tom & Celia
Reeves, Dick & Sylvia
Reinhardt, Jim
Reynolds, Bill & Charlotte
Richardson, Tom, Mary
 & Jerry
Riley, Jim, Roberta & Sue Lint
Roche, John
Rogers, Bob & Carol
Romanick, Dave & Rod
Ross, George & Betty
Rosser, Bill, Elly &
 Marian Fascino
Ruid, Glen & Kay
Sabini, Bill
Savage, Robert (Doc)
Schoonover, Frank & Hilde
Schultz, Don & Lucienne
Schwieso, Duaine & Mary
Seabaugh, Mil, Sylvia
 Vilar Trevino & Joe Burchette
Simon, Bill
Sjolund, Dave & Carol
Smith, Hunter & Peg
Smith, Rick & Joy
Smith, Robert & Hilda
Somerville, Slim, Dorothy
 & Myra
Stankewich, Joseph
Staples, Buck & Donna
Stern, Ted & Audrey
Stoll, Walt & Joann
Taubman, Phil
Taylor, Jim & Marion
Thomas, Clyde & Dot
Thomas, Don & Barbara
Thompson, Rick & Jacque
Truhan, Steve & Anne
Valenta, Lou & Ginnie
Vergin, Carl & Katie Adams
Wakeman, Edwin & Linda
Ward, Lloyd & Mary

Ward, Walter
 Waters, Charles & Jane
 Waxman, Frank
 Weigart, Adrian
 Welch, Harry & Janie
 West, Rufus, Doris, Scott
 & Kim
 White, Ben
 White, Carroll O.
 Whitworth, Neil & Dee
 Wilson, Mary
 Winters, Darlene
 Yanuzzi, Nick & Georgina

**ASSOCIATION
 BUSINESS &
 MEMBERSHIP
 SOURCES**

* * * * *
VETERANS DAY

**Business/Policy/Reunion
 Suggestions:**

President Bill Ernst
 410 Greenbriar Court
 Bellevue, NE 68005
 e-mail: BillErnst@aol.com

Association/Wing History:

Vice President Robb Hoover
 13412 Tregaron Circle
 Bellevue, NE 68123
 e-mail: RobbHoover@aol.com

**Membership Dues/Changes of
 Address:**

Treasurer Errol Hoberman
 6441 Avenida De Galvez
 Navarre, FL 32566
 e-mail:
 RavenOne@ispchannel.com

Newsletter Articles/Letters:

Secretary Ben White
 628 Corolla Court
 Corolla, NC 27927
 e-mail:
 benwhite@beachlink.com

TAPS – News of the passing of Association members, their immediate family members (spouses and children), and associates should be sent to **both** Bill Ernst and Ben White. Please include date of death, next of kin and an address to which the Association condolence card may be sent; and if known, crew position, squadron, period of time with Wing, etc.

It is the soldier, not the reporter,
 Who has given us freedom of the
 press.

It is the soldier, not the poet,
 Who has given us freedom of
 speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus
 organizer,
 Who has given us freedom to
 demonstrate.

It is the soldier who salutes the
 flag,
 Who serves beneath the flag,
 Whose coffin is draped by the
 flag, Who allows the protestor to
 burn the flag.

*Written by clergyman Father
 Dennis Edward O'Brien, USMC*

* * * * *
More OER lines of disrespect:

Got in the gene pool when the
 lifeguard wasn't looking.

He's so dense light bends around
 him.

Bright as Alaska in December.

Consistently sets low standards
 and fails to meet them.

Has hit rock bottom and still
 digging.



**YOUR ASSOCIATION
 HOME PAGE
www.55srwa.org**

If you have not yet been,
 go there and you are in for a
 treat. **Webmeister Don Griffin**
 and his able sidekick, **Dave
 Johnson**, have put together a
 virtual cyber-work of art and
 wonder. Everything you want to
 know about the Association is
 there: constitution, bylaws,
 officers and bios; entertaining
 articles; a membership form,
 library, picture gallery; e-mail
 traffic and an e-mail address
 listing; bulletin board and links
 to many other sites of interest;
 and more!

Send Association web
 page comments and/or ideas to
Don Griffin.
 e-mail: dgrif@ns.net

