



# Videmus Omnia

## 55<sup>th</sup> STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2004

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Midlands,

Since our last newsletter, too many of our comrades-in-arms, or loving wives of our compatriots, have taken their last flight (*see TAPS, page 9*). We shall miss their loyal patriotism, warm smiles and most of all, their treasured friendship. To the widows, we encourage you to continue your gratis membership as long as you so desire, and to attend our periodic social gatherings and reunions.

The year began with the whirlwind weekend of the Birthday Ball late in January. On Friday the 23rd the "Tales of the 55<sup>th</sup>", with **Robb Hoover** at the helm, drew record numbers listening to the tales and reviving old friendships. Saturday night, the Birthday Ball was attended by some 700 55<sup>th</sup>'ers, including many alumni returning to the fold. Your Association assisted many of the young troops to attend with our perennial contribution of \$1000 to the Ball fund.

**Stan O'Kelley's** RB-50 crew was inducted in to the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Hall of Fame and honored at the Ball. The Association presented attending family members with duplicate plaques to those now hanging in the Hall of Fame at the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Headquarters Command Section. Additionally, **LtCol Glen Gullekson**, the previous 343<sup>rd</sup> Commander, was awarded the 55<sup>th</sup> SRWA Award

for Excellence in absentia. Col Gullekson is currently doing a 'hardship tour' at the NATO War College in Italy.

In February your Board voted unanimously to donate \$1000 to the Air Force Memorial Foundation and the Association will be recognized on the Memorial for our gift.

We were happy to hear from **Col Marion "Hack" Mixson**, a former 55<sup>th</sup> SRW commander at Forbes, who was ill most of last year and is feeling up to par now. He sent a \$500 contribution for the memorial and becomes the latest of the Association's life members.

After the Ball was over, we essentially ended the sale of personalized bricks for the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW Cold War Memorial patio (although they can still be purchased but won't be installed in the patio until we have at least 20 new orders).

Concerning the Memorial, I hope you all have a chance to read the terrific article in the May edition of the VFW Magazine highlighting our Memorial (check the website). Additionally, all orders for personalized bricks received since 1 July 2003 have been ordered and engraved. **Jack Kovacs** and **Larry LaFlair** earlier this year spent one entire day (in the 90 degree heat) at the Memorial checking and double-checking the bricks and engraved data with the order forms to ensure that any mistakes have been found and corrected. This week (7-11 June) they will do the final proofing the last batch of bricks to make sure all the bricks are perfect

before they are installed in the patio. We have only to plant the two spruce trees behind the Memorial and the project will be completed.

I've said it before and I'll say it again, we owe a large debt of gratitude to Jack and Larry for their tireless labor of love on the RB-47H restoration, the reunion and the Memorial.

At the 2003 reunion we mentioned that we were looking for volunteers to take over **Don Griffin's** and **Dave Johnson's** positions as webmasters for the Association website. Don and Dave have done a fantastic job, but they are ready to retire and leave it in younger hands. They will remain available to support their replacements as necessary. If you're interested, please contact Don at [dgrif@citlink.net](mailto:dgrif@citlink.net).

Your Board has completed the rewriting of the selection process for **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Hall of Fame, printed later in this newsletter for your information and action. If you know of someone who you think is deserving of being inducted into the Hall of Fame, please write up a nomination package using the guidelines provided, highlighting their accomplishments, and submit it to **Jim Thomas**, Chairman of the Screening Committee, (James W. Thomas, 4418 Anchor Mill, Bellevue NE 68123-1168 or [JThomas927@aol.com](mailto:JThomas927@aol.com)).

Finally, there is an outstanding agenda of activity scheduled for our next reunion in San Diego, CA, March 9-13, 2005, and everyone is assured a great time. As we do each reunion, we will be electing members to the Association Board of Directors at the general membership meeting on Saturday, 12 March 2005. If you are desirous of a lofty position as an officer, or one of the Board of Directors, for this terrific Association, please let me know as soon as possible. The current Board will meet on Wednesday evening, 9 March 2005 to, in addition to other business, finalize the slate of Board nominees.

Make your reservations today and we'll see you in San Diego!

*Videmus Omnia, Bill Ernst, President*

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Association, as of 1 May 2004, had a checking account balance \$4,522.57. Another \$24,378.88 is in a saving account. There are no CDs in the account. (*Note: There are expected expenses*

*of an estimated \$8000 to close out the Cold War Memorial costs. Payment TBD.)*

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of 1 May 2004, the Association had 1093 members in good standing, 151 of which are Honorary Life Members (HLM), and 39 associated members. This is an **increase of 44** members since 1 January 2004.

The Association has members in **49 states** (*still no Alaska rep*), DC, Guam, Puerto Rico and APOs in Europe. The number of **active duty members** continues to rise as interest has picked up due to the Association's exposure in the Offutt area, and as current members continue to recruit.

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**The most frequently asked question of the membership chairman is "when do my dues expire?" Explanation: On the top line of your address label for this newsletter, or in the greetings line of e-newsletter, will be a year number or letters.**

Those indicators are herein defined: 2006 means your **dues expire at the end of that year**, and you are a member in good standing. Likewise, any other year shown indicates when your **dues expire, or have already expired. In the latter case, its time to reup, now.**

The letters **LM** indicate you are a life member, i.e.: contributed \$500 or more to the Cold War Memorial. **Dues not required.**

**HLM** denotes Honorary Life Member (widows and other selected persons who have made significant contributions to the status of the Association). **Dues not required.**

**Assoc** denotes an affiliated organization, or position in such an organization; or active duty position: such as **55 Wing CC** and other **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** senior staff members. **Dues not required.**

**Please retain this info for future reference. Errol.**

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**If your dues have expired, \$10.00 is due for 2004; \$25 will update your membership for three years. NOW is the time to renew.**

**(Note: if your dues expired in 2003, this is the last newsletter you will receive unless you renew your membership.)**

Please remit dues to **55SRW Association** and mail to Errol Hoberman as soon as practical. For those who receive this newsletter via regular post, an enclosed Association-addressed envelope is for your convenience.

New members receive the Association's dual-shield lapel pin and the Cold War Memorial coin when they join. Members desiring replacement or additional pins can get them from Errol for \$5.00 prepaid (*if you want more than one pin, the cost is just \$3.00 for each additional pin if mailed at the same time; i.e. one pin, \$5, two pins, \$8, three pins \$11, etc.*).

Ernst and Moore have pins, as well, so members in the Omaha area can get the pins from them for \$3.00 without the S/H.



## **55<sup>th</sup> SRW ASSOCIATION 24<sup>TH</sup> REUNION**

**9-13 March 2005 – San Diego, CA**

The Red Lion Hanalei Hotel in Mission Valley will be the HQ from **9-13 March (Wed–Sun) 2005**. The hotel has plenty of amenities – two dining rooms, bar, pool, spa, fitness room, meeting rooms and a banquet room.

The hotel is located on the famous and convenient trolley line which connects to Old Town, Downtown, Tijuana, and several other places and sights of interest in the San Diego area. SD is famous for its great weather all year round, scenic beauty, a great waterfront and marinas, all sorts of history and entertaining tours, and outstanding shopping and restaurants.

**Bill and Carol Lewis** are honchoing this reunion and they have a schedule planned for the attendees to include the always popular hospitality room (with many and convenient hours), golf, tours, a dining cruise, a membership meeting and the grand banquet.

**The next newsletter (Oct-Nov) will be devoted to the reunion registration, final schedule of events, costs and other detailed information to make this one more in a string of great 55<sup>th</sup> SRW gatherings.**

**It is not too early to mark your calendars and count on making this next reunion in a superior locale. Plan to go early and/or stay late.**

**Room rate for single or double is \$99.** That rate is good for three days either side of the reunion booking.

For those of you who do plan ahead, and wish to make your hotel reservations in advance, the number to call is 1-800-882-0858, goes directly to the hotel's reservation desk. Or you can book on-line at: [www.hanaleihotel.com](http://www.hanaleihotel.com), click on 'reservations', then click on 'groups'. The password is 55RECON. You can get all the information on the hotel, as well.

Tentative scheduling calls for early check-in on Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, with hospitality room open (every day, varying hours); Thursday: tours or free time; Friday: golf, tours, evening dinner cruise on SD Bay; Saturday: membership meeting (election of Board of Directors), tours; cocktails and banquet in the evening. Sunday is breakfast on your own, saying good-byes and moving on or hanging out.

Let's have another great turnout in this fabulous city. **MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW! SEE YA THERE!!!!**



## **ASSOCIATION BUSINESS & MEMBERSHIP SOURCES DIRECTORY**

### **Business/Policy/Reunion Suggestions:**

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Bellevue, NE 68005  
E-mail: [BillErnst@aol.com](mailto:BillErnst@aol.com)

### **Association/Wing History:**

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### **Membership Dues/Changes of Address:**

Treasurer Errol Hoberman  
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### **Newsletter Editor:**

Secretary Max Moore  
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## Association Web Page Comments/Ideas

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Wilton, CA 95693  
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## TALES OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup>

The fourth edition of the “*Tales of the 55<sup>th</sup>*” on Friday, 23 January 2004, was the largest attended so far as the event grows in stature each year. It was held in the Offutt Club to a near capacity-filled ballroom.

The brainchild of Robb Hoover, who also lines up the speakers, orchestrates and emcees, is the opening function of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Birthday Ball weekend. It is one more opportunity for 55<sup>th</sup> alums, both local and out-of-towners, and active duty troops to mingle, and relive or learn of some significant stories from the Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth’s history.

The event is co-sponsored by the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association and the Strategic Roost of the Association of Old Crows (AOC).

*LtCol Ricky McMahon* dubbed the weekend gathering as “a yearly winter migration to Recca”, since the 55<sup>th</sup> is the equivalent to Mecca for all recon dogs. So, “Return to Recca” is now part of the 55<sup>th</sup> lexicon.

Add that to *LtCol Will Hampton’s* quote that “the 55<sup>th</sup> Strat Recon Association is the soul of our heritage” and it is evident that some of the active troops see the value of what our organization stands for and promotes.

Attending this year’s event was an eclectic group dating from WWII, the Cold War, Viet Nam, Gulf War, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Among them: **Luke Sewell**, a WWII veteran of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group in South Pacific operations; **Neil Webster** (who was in the tower at Hickam Field on 7 December 1941) and **Harold Hall** from the 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group; **John Wagner**, an RB-50 navigator who witnessed a night barrage on the ill-fated French garrison at Dien Bien Phu in 1954; **Roger Ihle**, a pioneer old crow who flew the first B-17 ELINT missions in the Mediterranean in 1943; **Lois Durham**, a WWII Women’s Air Service Pilot (who was qualified to ferry more than 30 different aircraft); **Harry Tull**, a Tuskegee Airman and

veteran 55<sup>th</sup> EWO; and several former RB-47 crewdogs from the days at Forbes AFB, KS.

Family members from O’Kelley’s RB-50 crew were in town for the Hall of Fame induction: **Jean O’Kelley**, **Bess Tejada Bergmann**, **David Tejada**, **Gloria Sanderson Overboe**, **Bruce and Sue Sanderson**, **John Sanderson**, Mr. and Mrs. **Jim Beyer**.

Another luminary attending was **Russ Francis**, the All-Pro tight end who played in the NFL for 14 seasons with the New England Patriots and Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers. He is an aviation enthusiast who now works and resides in Omaha. (*Russ also attended the AFA Storz Awards luncheon in March, and was the guest speaker at the Strategic Roost of the Association of Old Crows scholarship banquet 5 May.*)



*Robb Hoover, resplendent in WWII ‘pinks and greens’ to honor his uncles, and Russ Francis.*

Association President Bill Ernst gave a plug for the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW Assn relating what the organization’s purposes, activities, functions and accomplishments are; and told of its membership and encouraged the active duty troops to join.

**BGen Craig Koziol**, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing commander, opened the festivities with remarks encouraging the present day wing members to pay attention to the ‘tales’ and learn from others what has been endured to protect the United States. “Listen to their stories, listen to what they have done,” he said. He also suggested they pass along the history to others.



General Koziol then recounted his own experiences, including a 26 hour mission over Kosovo with a 55<sup>th</sup> Wing RC-135 crew, while he was the 488<sup>th</sup> Security Service Sqd commander at RAF Mildenhall, UK, in 1982-84.

Another speaker was **LtCol (Ret) Max Moore**, who described the action during a mission over the Pechora Sea on 17 November 1970, when he was a navigator on **Jimmie Jones'** KC-135T crew which was intercepted by Soviet MiGs who fired warning shots 'across the bow'. In spite of the intimidation, the crew turned back inbound, continued on track and completed the planned mission with the MiGs escorting extremely close until the recon plane left the area.

**LtCol Jeff Needham**, the current 343<sup>rd</sup> RS commander, told of being a member of an RC-135 crew who was the target of a terrorist car-bombing of their bus in Athens on 16 August 1987. No one was killed, but the injuries resulted in the awarding of Purple Hearts to those who suffered wounds. The terrorist ring operated for another 14 years before the Greek police made their first arrests of the group.

A detailed description of RC-135 operations supporting the earliest days of Operation Iraqi Freedom during March-May 2003 was presented by **LtCol Ken McDaniel** and **Major Rich Linehan**. 55<sup>th</sup> recon crews had been in operations over Iraq for the previous ten years, so were well prepared to provide 'real time' intelligence for airborne strike missions and ground operations during this conflict.

*LtCol Doug Sachs, Strat Roost president, presents AOC mugs to the 'Tales' speakers: Moore, Needham, Linehan (not pictured: McDaniel.)*



*(Credit to Robb Hoover and Walt Davis for contributions to the above article. Also, thanks to Walt, the event was covered in the April issue of the Journal of Electronic Defense [the Assn of Old Crows magazine]).*

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## 55<sup>TH</sup> WING BIRTHDAY BALL 2005

**1Lt Karen Lee**, Fuel Management Flight Commander of the 55<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group, heads the 2005 Ball committee. The Association is once again represented on that committee.

The committee is in the process of selecting a Saturday date in February and looking for a venue. This will be the 27<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the event.

Another session of "Tales of the 55<sup>th</sup>" will occur the evening before at the Offutt Club. Plan now for another "Return to Recca" pilgrimage.

As more details become available, they will be posted on the website and published in the next issue of the VO.

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## HALL OF FAME 2004

This year's composite induction into the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Hall of Fame made at the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Birthday Ball 24 January, were the seventeen members of a 55<sup>th</sup> SRW RB-50G crew. Their aircraft was shot down by Soviet aircraft in 1953. Sixteen of the

crewmembers perished, and they were the first Cold War hostile fire casualties of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

Aircraft commander, **Capt Stanley K. O'Kelley** and his crew were assigned to the 343<sup>rd</sup> SRS at Forbes AFB, KS, and deployed to Yokota AB, Japan. It was from there they launched on July 29, 1953, on an airborne reconnaissance mission over the Sea of Japan to surveil military activities in the Vladivostok area of the Soviet's Far Eastern Military District.

Over international waters off the Siberian coast, two Russian MiG-17s attacked the RB-50 without warning. As cannon fire shot out two of the RB-50's engines, gunner **A2C James Woods** returned fire. But the RB-50 was badly damaged and starting to break up. Capt O'Kelley issued the bailout command as the aircraft was spinning and tumbling toward the waters below. Several crewmembers did bail out.

While floating in the fog-shrouded waters, Capt O'Kelley and his co-pilot, **Capt John Roche**, yelled to each other without visual contact. Soviet patrol boats were heard in the area. Some of the crewmembers may have been recovered by those vessels. After several hours Capt O'Kelley slipped beneath the waters. Capt Roche was recovered by a US Navy destroyer 22 hours after the RB-50 had been shot down.

This valiant crew flew the first reconnaissance mission after the Korean War cease-fire went into effect. They may well have been attacked by the Soviets to retaliate for an incident along the Yalu River the day of the cease-fire. The demands of the Cold War, in which it was imperative that the US be supplied with the latest intelligence on Soviet radar developments, put 55<sup>th</sup> crews at the tip of the spear.

While others celebrated the end of a hot war, Capt O'Kelley and his men prosecuted the mission, flying in harm's way, so that US military forces and leaders could be fully informed on Soviet intent and capabilities. The crew made the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of that duty.

Only Capt Roche survived. The fate of the others, who were thought to have bailed out, and may have been captured, has never been fully established. John Roche died of natural causes at age 78 in December 2002.

Capt O'Kelley's crew performed their mission in heroic fashion. Their devotion to duty lives on in

the proud traditions of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing. They are true heroes of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

*(Their names are now added to the 55<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame roll following.)* By Robb Hoover



## 55<sup>th</sup> WING HALL OF FAME

In 2003 the 55<sup>th</sup>SRWAssn assumed the administrative lead for the selection process of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Hall of Fame.

That process has been an evolving one for a number of years, and this year an Association presidential appointed committee continued the revision and refining for the selection criteria and process.

Following is the latest directive for the program.



## HALL OF FAME RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Administered by

**55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association**

This document establishes the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Hall of Fame (HoF) recognition program as administered by the 55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association (55thSRWA). It prescribes the procedures for nomination and selection of members to the HoF.

**Objective:** To recognize those former members of the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth whose mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices stand out while performing or providing direct support to the mission of the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth.

**General:** On behalf of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing, the HoF program recognizes former members of Fightin' Fifty-Fifth for significant mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices in support of the mission of the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth. HoF induction will occur on an annual basis, with nominations accepted from July through October of each year. A maximum of two (2) awards (a crew will be considered as one award) may be given in one year. Consideration of nominees does not mandate selection to the HoF. In coordination with the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing, the newest inductees selected for the HoF may be announced during the annual 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Birthday Ball or other venue as determined by the 55thSRWA and in coordination with the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing.

The final selection will be the end result of two processes:

1. The HoF Screening Committee will receive and review all nomination packages and select those to be considered by the Selection Committee. Nominees for the HoF recognition will be former military members who have served as members of any of the following units: 55<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Group, 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, 55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing and/or 55<sup>th</sup> Wing. These units will hereinafter be referred to as Fightin' Fifty-Fifth. The HoF Screening Committee will be chaired by an Omaha-based member of the Board and be comprised of at

least four Association members in good standing, one of which will be the **55 Wing** Vice Commander or his designated representative.

2. The Selection Committee will consider all nomination packages forwarded by the Screening Committee and make the final selection recommendations to the **55<sup>th</sup> SRWA** Board of Directors for their approval. The Selection Committee will be comprised of Chairman of the Awards Committee, Chairman of Screening Committee and not less than three or more than five Omaha-based Association members in good standing, one of which will be the **55 Wing** Vice Commander or his designated representative.

**Eligibility**

1. Must have been assigned to the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth.
2. Mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices must have been accomplished while assigned to and performing the mission of the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth; or having been assigned to the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth, the mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices must have had a direct, significant and sustained impact on the accomplishment of the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's mission.
3. Nominee cannot be on active duty.

William H. Ernst, President  
**55<sup>th</sup>SRWAssociation**

2 June 2004

**NOMINATION PROCEDURES**

Nomination packages will be comprised of the following items:

**1. Nominating group or individual:**

Name:  
Address:  
Phone number/email:

**2. Nominee(s):**

Name:  
Address:  
Phone number:

If nominee(s) is/are deceased, please provide name, address, and phone number of an appropriate family member who can represent the individual (if possible) at the HoF induction ceremony.

**3. Photo of nominee (color preferred)**

**The following will be in narrative format**

**4. Assignment Dates** – Provide assignment history to the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth and/or assignment history and nature of relationship in direct support to the mission of the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth

**5. Narrative** – Detail specific mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices to the legacy of the Fighting'Fifty-Fifth.

6. Nominations **must** be signed by nominator and one additional individual who was either witness to the acts, unyielding service, etc., or someone who can attest to the validity of the nomination. In the absence of an additional signature, the nominator must provide supporting documentation wherever possible to ensure the HoF selection committee can be convinced of the authenticity of the facts forwarded in the nomination.

7. Submit nomination to: The Selection Committee Chairman. For this year that is Jim Thomas, 4418 Anchor Mill, Bellevue, NE 68123-1168, Jthomas927@aol.com.

8. Nominations may also be submitted electronically by forwarding to: Michael.Cook@cox.net

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

**The 55 SRW Assn administers this program.**

**Nomination schedule:**

- First week in June – Process review
- First week in July – Call for nominations
- NLT 15 October – Receives and screens all nomination packages
- NLT 1 November – Forwards nominee packages to Selection Committee.

**The Chairman and Members of the Screening Committee**

Screens all nominations for eligibility.

**The Selection Committee** - Makes final selection of HoF Inductees.

**The 55<sup>th</sup> SRWA President:**

- a. Prepares "Call for Nominations" memo for inclusion in the **55<sup>th</sup>SRWA** newsletter and website.
- b. After the Selection Committee has finalized the selection of any new inductees, the President will forward this information to the Board of Directors for concurrence.
- c. Informs the **55 Wing** Commander of the new inductees.
- d. In consonance with **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Protocol and Wing Birthday Ball Project Officer, coordinates presentation at the annual **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Birthday Ball, or other event or venue as coordinated between the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** and the **55<sup>th</sup> SRWA**.



**55<sup>th</sup> WING HALL OF FAME  
ROLL OF INDUCTEES**

- \*Col (Ret) Jack Jenkins,**  
WWII former 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group commander
- MajGen (Ret) Edward Giller,**  
WWII fighter pilot/downed a German Me262
- \*Major (Ret) Walter Konantz,**  
WWII credited with downing two Me 262s
- MajGen (Ret) Howard Smith,**  
Cold War/Strat recon pioneer
- LtCol (Ret) Robert Rich,**  
Cold War RB-50 returned fire on MiG-19
- Col (Ret) Burton Barrett,**  
WWII and Cold War RB-47 pioneer
- Col (Ret) Bruce Olmstead,**  
Cold War (Major Palm's copilot)
- Col (Ret) John McKone,**

Cold War (Major Palm's navigator)  
**\*Col Charles "Iron Mike" Rafferty,**  
 Cold War/Cuban missile crisis  
**BrigGen (Ret) Regis Urschler,**  
 Cold War/Former **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** commander  
**Capt Hank Dubuy,**  
 Cold War (LtCol Mattison's copilot)  
**LtCol (Ret) Harrison Tull,**  
 Former Tuskegee Airman and Cold War  
**LtGen (Ret) George Miller,**  
 Former **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** CC and SAC ViceCINC  
**Col (Ret) Donald White,**  
 Former 2ACCS commander/ABNCP operations  
**LtGen (Ret) John Sams,**  
 Former 1ACCS commander/E-4 operations  
**BrigGen (Ret) Larry Mitchell,**  
 Former **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** commander/Cold War  
**\*SSgt Ronald King,**  
 Killed in Kobar Towers terrorist attack  
**Lt Sheila O'Lear Kirkwood,**  
 Desert Shield/Storm RC-135 EWO  
**Major Edward "Muddy" Waters,**  
 Outstanding airmanship in RC-135 emergency  
**LtGen (Ret) Tom Keck,**  
 Former **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** commander  
**LtGen (Ret) Phillip Ford,**  
 Former Vice CC of STRATCOM  
**CMSgt (Ret) Jerry Kozlek,**  
 Gulf War/Open Skies support as a GS worker.  
**\*Col (Ret) William Riggs,**  
 Former **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** CC/Cold War/mission transition  
**\*Major Willard Palm,**  
 Cold War RB-47 shot down 1 July 1960  
**\*Capt Eugene Posa**  
**\*Capt Dean Phillips**  
**\*Capt Oscar Goforth**  
**LtCol (Ret) James Taylor,**  
 Cold War/RC-135 EWO/instructor  
**\*LtCol (Ret) Hobart Mattison,**  
 Cold War/RB-47 recovery after hostile fire  
**LtCol (Ret) Roy "Pop" Kaden,**  
 Cold War RB-50 strat recon pioneer  
 The Crew of RB-50G, #47-145- Shot down 29 July  
 1953: \*Aircraft Cmdr: **Capt Stanley K. O'Kelley**  
 \*Copilot: **Capt John E. Roche**  
 \*Navigator: **Capt Edmund J. Czyz**  
 \*Navigator: **Capt Lloyd C. Wiggins**  
 \*Navigator: **Capt James G. Keith**  
 \*Raven 1: **Capt Warren J. Sanderson**

\*Raven 2: **Maj Francisco J. Tejada**  
 \*Raven 3: **Capt Robert E Stalnaker**  
 \*Raven 4: **Capt John C. Ward**  
 \*Raven 6: **Capt Frank E Beyer, Jr.**  
 \*Flight Engineer: **MSgt Francis L. Brown**  
 \*Fire Control: **SSgt Donald W. Gabree**  
 \*Gunner/Radioman **Roland E. Goulet**  
 \*Gunner A2C **Charles J. Russell**  
 \*Gunner A2C **James E. Woods**  
 \*Linguist **SSgt Donald G. Hill**  
 \*Linguist A2C **Earl W. Radlein**  
*\*Denotes deceased*

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE 55<sup>TH</sup> SRW ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association** Annual Award for Excellence is presented to that individual, crew, group, or organization that best exemplifies the basic tenants of the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association**.

The award winners are announced at the annual **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Birthday Ball** and at **55<sup>th</sup>SRWA** reunions. Their names are inscribed on the base of the trophy and they receive a representative plaque.

The previous award recipients are **LtCol Ricky McMahon**, **338<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron** commander, 2000; and **MSgt Steven and MSgt Lisa Haggett** for 2001; **LtCol Kurt Kramer**, **38<sup>th</sup> RS** commander for 2002; and **Col (select) Glen Gulleckson**, **343<sup>rd</sup>RS** commander in 2003.

The unveiling of the imposing trophy always gets an appreciative and audible response from the crowd at the Ball.



*The trophy and "Noteables" band in WWII replica uniforms at the 55<sup>th</sup> wing Birthday Ball, Jan 2004*

\* \* \* \* \*

## T A P S



**William Bomicino**, died 13 February 2003, Nipomo, CA; wife: **Marilyn**. *Only info provided.*

**Stanley Derda**, 91, 15 April 2002, Dayton OH. *Only info provided.*

**Ray Fullner**, 11 February 2004, Riverside, CA; wife: **Dorothy**. Ray was a longtime navigator in RB-47s at Forbes AFB, KS.

**Shirley Hackenberger**, 1 May 2004, Bixby, OK; wife of **Harold (Hal)**, pilot/EWO 1951-58.

**Nadine Jones**, 9 July 2003, Cocoa Beach, FL; wife of veteran aviator **Jimmie Jones**, AC in RB-47s at Forbes and RC-135s at Offutt in 1960s-70s.

**Douglas Keene**, 14 March 2004, Burlington, KS; wife: **Carolyn**. Doug was an Inflight Maintenance Tech (IMT) in RC-135s at Offutt in the 1970s.

**William Lowman**, 83, 8 April 2004, Bowie, MD; wife: "**Ginger**". Bill was a WWII B-25 navigator. Later with the 55<sup>th</sup> in RB-50s and -47s at Barksdale, Ramey and Forbes before going to SAC HQ in 1956.

**Mike Malone**, o/a 1 February 2004, Union Mills, NC; wife: **Dorcus**. An RC-135 pilot and AC with the 82<sup>nd</sup> SRS at Kadena AB, Okinawa, in the 1970s.

**Cony Metcalf**, 81, 10 February 2004, Plain Dealing, LA; wife: **Edna**; Cony served in the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW as an RB-29 engineer circa early-1950s. He went on to have a 32 career with TWA.

**Kenneth Merrill**, 26 September 2003; Sun City West, AZ; wife **Jerri**. *Only info provided.*

**Ray Morris**, 72, 10 May 2004, Topeka, KS; wife: **Dora**. Ray was a pilot in RB-47s at Forbes

AFB, KS, from 1957-66. Then moved into RC-135s at Offutt. He later served in the Pentagon, at Minot and on Guam.

**Jay P. (Tex) Morrison**, 69, 1 February 2004, Albuquerque, NW; wife: **Marjorie**. Tex was an RB-47H crew chief at Forbes, 1955-57.

**Earl Myers**, 80, 28 January 2004, Vero Beach, FL; wife: **Winnie**. Pilot in B-17s, WWII; B-29s in Korea; RB-47E/Ks with 90SRW at Forbes in 1950s.

**Alan T. Smith**, 63, 29 February 2004, Plano, TX; wife: **Marilyn**. Al was a pilot in the 82<sup>nd</sup> SRS at Kadena in the late 1960s. He later worked for Ross Perot, then was a dentist for many years.

**Merrill Taylor**, 7 November 2002, Walnut Creek, CA; former RB-47 navigator and staff officer at Forbes AFB in the 1950s; wife: **Betty**.

**E. Jean Tice**, 65, 2 June 2004, Papillion, NE; wife of **Russell**, EC-135 navigator and staff officer at Offutt.

\* \* \* \* \*

**TAPS** – News of Association members, friends and associates taking the “Big PCS”, hitting “High Flight”, or “folding wings”, etc., should be sent to Bill Ernst and Max Moore (*see DIRECTORY, page 3 for contact info*). **Please include next of kin and an address to which the Association condolence card may be sent; date of demise, pilot/nav/EWO, time with 55<sup>th</sup>, and any other known pertinent information.**

**The news in TAPS is limited by how much and how accurate the information is given.**

\* \* \* \* \*

### AN ACTIVE DUTY PERSPECTIVE

By Capt Beth Kelley,

Chief, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs

55<sup>th</sup> SRW Assn Board of Directors Member

When I moved to Offutt AFB from Texas two years ago, one of the first things that hit me about my new job was how integral Offutt's history was with the community spirit. Both the community support and acceptance of Offutt, and the history of the base seem to mesh into a mutual appreciation for each other.



\* \* \* \* \*

## LETTERS AND STUFF

To the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association**      March 15, 2004  
Dear Friends:

On behalf of the entire United States Air Force family, I want to thank you for your very generous contribution of \$1,000 to the Air Force Memorial Foundation.

I will post your organization's name to the Air Force Memorial Chapter Sponsor web site so that future generations may properly recognize your contribution, and commitment to service and our country.

With the war on terrorism, and the men and women of the US Air Force once again serving on the front lines, our goal of completing the Memorial is more important than ever. Your donation will go a long way toward making the Memorial a reality, sooner rather than later.

Thank you so much for your friendship and support.

Sincerely,  
**Edward F. Grillo, Jr**, *MajGeneral USAF (Ret)*  
*President, Air Force Memorial Foundation*

\* \* \* \* \*

Thanks ever so much! What A GREAT NEWSLETTER! (*Feb 04*) I had hoped to attend the reunion, but became ill at the last moment. (*The articles on the reunion and monument*) made me feel part of it all!

**Joan E. Kothanek**, *Warner Robins, GA*  
(*E-mail to Errol Hoberman 02/03/04*)

\* \* \* \* \*

To the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Assn**:

Wow!!!! You folks have my 100% support after seeing this newsletter (*Feb 04*). Thanks for the personal e-mail copy.

I'm am filling out my check right now for my dues. Keep up the great work.

Only now are folks beginning to learn the Cold War accomplishments of the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** and the 343<sup>rd</sup> SRS.

Thank you. **Sid Howard**, *Niceville, FL*  
(*E-mail to Errol Hoberman 02/02/04*)

\* \* \* \* \*

Since getting involved in the **55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association**, and learning more about the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing's** history, I've come to understand why this synchronization of history and community exists: it's the people. People who understand our wing's importance throughout the many decades – both on an international level and the local level in Bellevue – and people who continue to support the base, the wing, the mission and the families that make up today's **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**.

Learning about how the 55<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Group began, how it evolved into the 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, then the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW**, and into today's **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**, incorporates every major historical event in our nation's history books since WWII. In parallel, each unit listed above has helped shape Offutt Air Force Base and the surrounding community, through its people—friends, families, legends and heroes.

However, the greatest part about this merging of history and community is the fact that WE CELEBRATE this relationship regularly. I've never been anywhere else in the Air Force where a wing hosts an annual Birthday Ball. I've never heard of other bases regularly bringing former commanders and crewdogs together to tell tales of missions from the past. I've never known of another wing that has its own alumni organization proactively supporting the unit and its people.

It's been an honor to be asked to serve as one of two active duty board members for the **55<sup>th</sup> SRWA** this past year. I look forward to continuing the legacy of community and history I've found here at Offutt, and maybe even bringing it to future communities as I move throughout my Air Force career.

Secretary Max Moore

March 2004

All of you are doing a great job with the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association** newsletter, reunion, the Memorial, etc. Jay was very proud to have served and would have enjoyed the being at (*the reunion*) last September, and especially seeing the restored RB-47.

Sincerely, **Marjorie Morrison**, *Albuquerque, NM (Widow of Jay (Tex) Morrison, crew chief).*

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Robb:

30 January 2004

The DFC presentation was held at McDill AFB, FL on 20 January. The presentation was made to the son and daughter of one of my navigators, **Donald Burkhead** by Col (BG-sel) **David Snyder**. The 55<sup>th</sup> was represented by me, **Hack Mixson, Joe Gyulavics, Don Shultz, Ed Wakeman** and their wives.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, a DFC was presented to the family my other navigator, **Jack Welch**, by LtGen **Hester**, CO of the Special Operations Command at Hurlburt AFB, FL. In addition to myself, **Errol Hoberman, Susan Curran, Charlie Waters, George and Gerrie Back, Rufus West and Ray Kinkaid** represented the 55<sup>th</sup>.

Both ceremonies went very well. Nine DFCs have now been made to my (*former RB-50*) crewmembers, five posthumously.

As of now this will be the last as the next of kin for three of them cannot be located. I will now get on to something else.

I really missed attending the *Tales of the 55<sup>th</sup>* and the Birthday Ball. Gerry and I had been planning on the Ball for a long time. It so happened the DFC presentations were scheduled in the same time frame. Perhaps next year, Lord willing.

**Roy "Pop" Kaden**, *Maumelle, AR*

\* \* \* \* \*

Hi Max,

I was talking with Joe Gyulavics during one of our fabulous dinners on the recent 82<sup>nd</sup> SRS Reunion Cruise, and the subject of early 55<sup>th</sup> SRW flights out of Thule AB and England to areas north of Russia came up. I mentioned to him that I just may be the only one in the AF who flew on 55<sup>th</sup> missions and also provided rescue coverage for them. He said he was never aware that there ever

was any rescue coverage of any type for those missions.

I can assure you there were rescue forces in place every time you flew. I'll have to admit that at the time I flew (*55<sup>th</sup> missions*) out of Thule AB (1956-1957), I don't remember (or have now forgotten) any rescue contingencies being briefed; but then as a copilot, maybe I wouldn't necessarily have been involved in any such briefing.

From July, 1965 to June, 1968 I was assigned to the 67<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, stationed first at Prestwick AB, Scotland, and later at Moron AB, Spain. During that time we (67<sup>th</sup> ARRS) made numerous trips to Bodo, Norway to cover SAC recon flights on a response-time ground-alert in a HC-130.

For some of those missions we orbited in an area of the North Sea or over Scandinavian countries. SAC, through our rescue wing at Ramstein, Germany, would give us a block of times that they wanted for rescue coverage. We were not briefed specifically what the flights were or where they originated or their routes (but of course I knew, having flown some of them).

I remember that we were told that if we were needed, we would be notified "in the clear," thus avoiding the need to carry classified documents and decoders into a foreign country. Prior to my arriving in Prestwick AB, these alerts/orbits were carried out by HC-54s.

Just wondered if there are any more in the AF (*or 55<sup>th</sup>*) who flew on both ends of these missions.

**John Draper**, *Topeka, KS (from an e-mail 04/12/04)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Gentlemen:

April 21, 2004

My thanks go to the full command staff of the **55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association** and the way you've continued to "keep the ship in the air" so long and so effectively.

My service in the wing remains one of the proudest affiliations of my entire life.

Please convey my warmest regards to everyone who knew the wing in the middle-1950s-60s.

With much appreciation,

**David E.P. O'Dell** *Fairport, NY*

*Former SSgt, 55<sup>th</sup> AEMS,*

*Adjunct Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology*

\* \* \* \* \*

## ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

You will surely want to acquire a shirt and/or cap before the next reunion, so it is suggested you order soon, as there is no guarantee they will be available at the San Diego gathering due to logistics of getting them there.

The June shirt inventory by sizes is: small – 2; medium – 8; large – 11; XL – 4; XXL – 3; XXXL – 0. We can always order more of any size, as needed. **Cost is \$25 per shirt.**

The dual shield logo is on the left breast, white with red trim, navy blue front placket, no pocket. They are 100% combed cotton. The quality is such that there is little to no fading or shrinkage.



*Jim Thomas and Mike Cook are centurions at the gate, displaying shirts and flags of the Association. Taken at the memorial dedication, Sept 2003.*

There are 17 **golf/ballcaps** on hand. They are royal blue with the dual shield logo on the front and adjustable back strap. **They go for \$7 each.**

The items can be viewed in color on the Association web site at [www.55srwa.org](http://www.55srwa.org), and click on the *Clothing Sales* link.

Anyone desiring to purchase either or both can send an e-mail to: [MaxMoore55@aol.com](mailto:MaxMoore55@aol.com); phone: (402) 291-8272; or write to: 201 Basswood Court, Bellevue, NE, 68005-2001

**There are charges for postage to be added** to the individual item costs: \$7 for two shirts; \$5 if both a shirt and cap are ordered; \$4 for a shirt only; \$2 for a cap only.

**Checks for the full amount of your order should be made to the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association, or to Max Moore. Either way, the bucks end up in the Association treasury.**

One more way to identify with your Association and “show the logo” at appropriate functions, on the golf course, wherever.

They are unisex, so get one for your spouse, significant other, or other family members.

**Great gifts!**

**Come and get ‘em!!!**

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE ASSOCIATION TIE

After the original order of over 330 ties was sold, there was such a demand to continue this new Association symbol that **Jim Thomas** has picked up the baton from Sam Pizzo as the ‘regimental tie’ vendor. A new batch of 75 has been ordered.

The tie is an attractive and distinguished blue and red striped design with the Association’s dual shield logo prominently displayed in the tie’s center. A fine gold line defines every fourth blue/red stripe.



**The price is \$20 each which includes shipping postage. Order now! You will want one for the next reunion banquet and other appropriate events. Make checks payable to the 55SRW Association.**

Contact Jim at [JThomas927@aol.com](mailto:JThomas927@aol.com), or write him at 4418 Anchor Mill, Bellevue, NE 68005-1168.

\* \* \* \* \*

*There will always be death and taxes. However, death doesn’t get worse every year.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### MEMORIAL COINS

The coins shown below (*actual size: 1½ in diameter*) were produced expressly for the purpose of providing them to Association members at the September 2003 reunion as a memento.

Those who did **not** receive one at the reunion and want to have a Memorial Coin, **contact** Errol Hoberman (SAC-EWO@mchsi.com, or 6441 Avenida De Galvez, Navarre FL 32566-8911); or Bill Ernst (BillErnst@aol.com, or 410 Greenbriar Ct. Bellevue, NE 68005, Ph: 402-202-1205). One memorial coin will be mailed to you **free of charge**. Additional coins are available for \$5 each.



Coin Front



Coin Back

\* \* \* \* \*

### PANORAMIC PHOTO

Anyone desiring to purchase the panoramic picture of the crowd at the Memorial dedication can do so by calling **William Aldrich** at (937) 434-9287, or by sending a \$20 check to Pan-A-View, 2501 E. Rahn Road, Kettering, OH, 45440. Cost includes shipping and postage. Refer to the Recon Rendezvous 2003 Photo. They will be available indefinitely. This is a private enterprise for which the Association receives **no** money.

\* \* \* \* \*

*A day without sunshine is, like, night.*

### ANOTHER RR 2003 ITEM AVAILABLE

Robb Hoover has some DVDs of the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** Memorial Dedication ceremonies at the USAF Museum in September 2003 at a cost of \$5 per copy. Contact him at RobbHoover@aol.com, or 13412 Tregaron Circle, Bellevue, NE 68123-3466, Ph: 402-292-6616, if you would like a copy.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SPARKLY 55<sup>TH</sup> PINS



*Pin shown is near actual size*

As a direct result of the last newsletter notice, the above pins have sold at a steady pace to members all over the country.

The Association does **not** sell these pins and receives **no** money. But, as a public service for those who wish to possess same: **Erwin's Jewelers, Frank Kumor**, proprietor, in Olde Town Bellevue has an inventory of about 75 and **you can purchase directly from the store**.

You can write to 223 W. Mission Ave, Bellevue, NE; call: (402) 291-2454, or fax to (402) 293-5873 to order the pins. Cost is \$9 for the pin and \$3 for shipping for out of Bellevue buyers.

\* \* \* \* \*

### REUNIONS

**343<sup>rd</sup> STRAT RECON SQD**  
**1954-1967 Forbes AFB, KS**  
**September 9-10 2004**  
**Candlewood Suites, Topeka, KS**

The reunion is planned for former 343<sup>rd</sup> crew members and A&E personnel who supported the aircraft and missions. **Paul Dolby** is the contact man. Details were still in the works at press time, but plans include a visit to the WG Palm Park in Topeka, and the Combat Museum at Forbes Field. There will be a banquet Friday night.

**Candlewood requests reservations NLT 30 July.** More info can be had by contacting Paul at paul68n@netscape.net, or write him at 1211 Riverside Drive, Huntington, IN 46750. Ph: 260-356-1761.

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**B-47 STRATOJET ASSOCIATION  
4<sup>th</sup> REUNION  
September 23-25 2004, Dayton, OH  
USAF MUSEUM**

Headquarters will be Holiday Inn North in Dayton. Call 937-278-4871 no later than 23 August for reservations at \$79 per night, plus tax. Reunion registration is \$169 for the full package.

On Friday, 24 September, a \$25,000 memorial to all who maintained, flew, and supported the B-47, the aircraft that helped win the Cold War and never dropped a bomb on an enemy, will be dedicated in the Memorial Gardens at the USAF Museum. *(The RB-47 strategic reconnaissance operations will be recognized on a marble bench.)*

For more details check the web site **B-47.com**, or contact B-47 Assn President Dick Purdum at phone number 402-291-5247; e-mail: DickPurdum@cox.net.

*(If you did not or could not attend the Recon Rendezvous in September 2003, here is your chance to go view that new monument, and the 55SRW Cold War Memorial, and to experience many similar events that were part of the 2003 reunion.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

**ARC LIGHT – YOUNG TIGER  
2004 REUNION  
September 2-6 2004  
Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO**

The reunion is for those who flew and supported B-52 bombing and KC-135 refueling operations in

the Vietnam campaign from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s.

Reservations can be made by calling the Antlers at 866-299-4602 or 719-473-5600. Mention ARC Light-Young Tiger for the \$115 room rate. More info can be gained at websites: www.arc-light-reunion.us and www.young-tiger-reunion.us.

The reunion chairman is **BG (Ret) Paul Maye**, 719-372-6293; e-mail: pndmaye@earthlink.net.

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**FYI**

The May issue of the VFW Magazine featured an article entitled, "Cold War Casualties Cry Out for Commemoration." It covered the number of varied memorials dedicated to the Cold War era that are scattered about the nation.

The opening page and a half displayed a picture of the **55<sup>th</sup>SRW Association** monument (front view) at the USAF Museum accredited to **Jack Kovacs**. However, there was just a single paragraph mentioning the memorial and Cold War annex in the long article.



*This shot of the memorial is from the right rear and not the one in the VFW magazine.*

Several other markers, benches and monuments were also depicted, including the one in Greenville, TX, on the grounds of L-3 Communications, dedicated to crewmembers lost on ten Cold War recon missions.

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*Age doesn't always bring wisdom.  
Sometimes age comes alone*

# YOUR 55<sup>TH</sup> SRW ASSN WEB SITE

## www.55srwa.org

The Association website is alive and well, and the homepage is an integral part of the Association's line of communications. If you have not already done so, you are urged to check it out.

Everything you want to know about the Association is there: **constitution, bylaws**; officers and bios; membership form, library, picture gallery, and e-mail address listing, bulletin board and links to many other associated sites.

**Info and updates on the next reunion and important bulletins on any projects in progress are posted.** Also, there is e-mail traffic on many subjects of interest to members. Lots of good stuff.

Webmeister **Don Griffin** and his creative cyber-sidekick, **Dave Johnson**, form a dynamic duo to maintain and update the site so as not to get stale.

**They are always looking for new and fresh ideas. Grif welcomes input from members. Send him pictures, war stories, anything you want to share with the Association.**

An area in need of continuous attention is the e-mail address roster. The active or current members e-mail address listing is found at [http://www.55srwa.org/55\\_adr1.html](http://www.55srwa.org/55_adr1.html).

First and foremost, the webguys would like for anyone who does **not** want their e-mail address posted to let them know and that address will be deleted. Likewise, if your address is **not** currently listed, but you wish it so, tell 'em that, too.

Secondly, they would like for all members to check the list and see if the information is correct and up to date. If not, let them know. Any change requests to the e-mail listing should be sent to **both** [dgrif@citlink.net](mailto:dgrif@citlink.net) and [SAC-EWO@mchsi.com](mailto:SAC-EWO@mchsi.com).

**Notice: Grif and Dave are looking to retire from those duties and hand over to younger, fresher blood. So, any super cyber dudes or dudettes with interest in taking part in this endeavor are urged to contact Grif and communicate your desires and qualifications.**

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## THE CREW CHIEF

Through the history of aviation,  
Many names come to the fore.

Great deeds of the past in our memory will last,  
As they're joined by more and more.

When man first started his labor  
To conquer that big sky,  
He became a designer, a mechanic, a pilot,  
And he built a machine that could fly.

But somehow the order got twisted  
And then in public's eye,  
The only man who could be seen  
Was the man who knew how to fly.

The pilot was everyone's hero,  
He was brave, he was bold, he was grand,  
As he stood by his battered old biplane  
With his goggles and helmet in hand.

To be sure, these pilots all earned it,  
To fly you have to have guts.  
They blazed their names into the hall of fame  
On wings with bailing wire struts.

But for each of these flying heroes,  
There were thousands of little renown.  
Those were the men who worked on the planes,  
But kept their feet on the ground.

We all know the name of Lindbergh,  
And we've read of his flight to fame.  
But think, if you can, of his maintenance man.  
Can anyone tell me his name?

And think of our wartime heroes,  
Yeager, White and Scott.  
Can you tell me the names of their crew chiefs?  
I'll bet ten thousand to one you cannot!!!

Now pilots are highly trained people,  
And wings are not easily won.

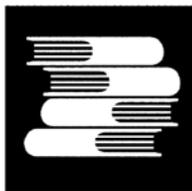
But without the work of the crew chief,  
Our pilots would march with the gun.

So when you see that mighty jet,  
As it marks it's way through the air,  
The greasy man with a wrench in his hand  
Is the one who put it there!!!

*By David W. Hall, MSgt, USAF-Retired*

\* \* \* \* \*

## BOOK PLUGS



### **AT THE ABYSS AN INSIDER'S HISTORY OF THE COLD WAR**

**By Thomas C. Reed**

Former Secretary of the Air Force  
Ballantine Books, Presidio Press

Written by an author who rose from military officer to a Reagan administration insider, this is a vivid, unvarnished view of America's fight against Communism, from the end of WWII to the closing of Strategic Air Command in 1992; a work as full of human interest as history, and of rich characters as bloody conflict.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **B-47 STRATOJET – Centurion of the Cold War By Sigmund Alexander**

Past President of the B-47 Stratojet Assn

After almost ten years of research, I have completed my book on the B-47. It is the most thoroughly researched book on the B-47, with emphasis on the role of the B-47 in the Cold War, and of the people who played such an important role in its development and operation.

This book will make you feel proud of being part of the B-47 team. It will answer the question: "Grandpa, what did you do in the Cold War?"

Chapter 3 of Book II is devoted to RB-47 strategic reconnaissance operations from the early Soviet overflights through the last RB-47H flight of 27 December 1967.

I have self-published the book and it is available from me for \$30, that includes S/H. Mail orders and

checks to: Sigmund Alexander, 12110 Los Credos Dr., San Antonio, TX 78233-5953.

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### **A NEED TO KNOW:**

#### **The Role of the Air Force Reconnaissance in War Planning, 1945-1953**

**By John Farquhar**  
Air University Press

LtCol (Ret) Farquhar is a 55<sup>th</sup> SRW veteran and an instructor at the USAF Academy.

His book provides a deep insight into the purpose of those early missions, and the application of the collected intelligence.

You can order a copy from Air University Press. Call them at 334-953-2773, or order online at [www.au.af.mil/aul.aupress/](http://www.au.af.mil/aul.aupress/) Cost is \$21.00.

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## **WHO SHOT WHAT?**



Picture credits to Walt Davis for the three 'Tales' photos; **Gerry Pritchard** for trophy and band shot; **Jim Maloney** for coins; Beth Kelley for pin and herself; Max Moore for pictures of Thomas and Cook and the Cold War monument rear view.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **E – NEWSLETTER**

Association members in good standing (paid up dues) who so desire can receive the newsletter via electronic transmission. To get it, go to: [www.55srwa.org](http://www.55srwa.org) for full instructions on how to read and/or download.

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*You may be just one person in this world,  
but you may be **the** world to one person.*