



Videmus Omnia

55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

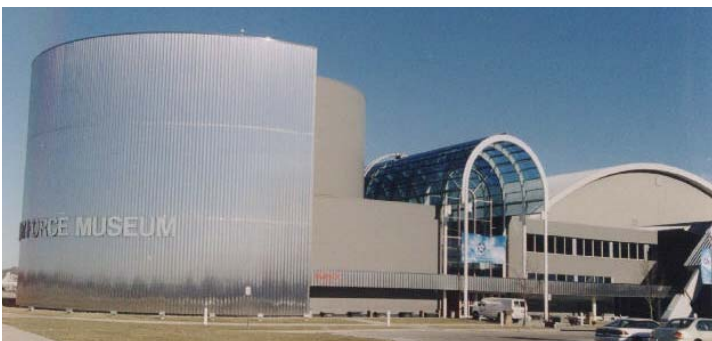
APRIL 2003

“RECON RENDEZVOUS 2003”

DAYTON, OH

At the USAF Museum

The 55th SRW Association’s 23rd reunion will be in Dayton, OH, during the week **after** Labor Day, **3-6 September 2003**. This reunion, is to be part of the opening celebration of the **Cold War Annex** to the US Air Force Museum near Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. The Museum is co-hosting the Recon Rendezvous and other units will have delegations there.



USAF Museum – Main Entrance

Folks, if you only attend one reunion in your lifetime, THIS IS THE ONE!

The thinking and planning on this endeavor began in August of 1999, and since that time, **Jack Kovacs** has done yeoman work over and above any call to duty to get it done. **The membership, and all who attend this great event, owe him a very, very large debt of gratitude.**

He has built a thorough, complete and detailed package of information on the entire agenda for the four days of festivities. For some of you, it may be more info than you will need, but no question is left unanswered and no item overlooked.

That information and the registration form were mailed in mid-March. You are urged to read it through, register soon, and make your travel plans to be in Dayton for this once in lifetime gathering.

By registering not later than 15 June you will be eligible for a drawing for some nice prizes.

There is a triad purpose for this gathering of veteran recon Cold Warriors: in addition to the reunion and the new AFM building, it is to dedicate the **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Memorial**. Any one of these happenings is significant alone. But, for all three to coincide is a remarkable undertaking. **You will want to be part of these historic events.**

An estimated 800 attendees will make it. Hotel reservations have been open for several months now and they are filling up. **Do not delay. The Holiday Inn I-675 in Fairborn, OH, is the 55th SRW Association headquarters.** Call the Conference Center at (937) 426-7800, or fax (937) 426-1284, state that you are attending the **Recon Rendezvous 2003**, to get the contracted rate of \$89 per night.

The schedule allows for plenty of time for socializing, enjoying camaraderie and touring the museum. There are three evening events, a review symposium of historic recon operations, and other events, and tours will be available. Of course the Board of Directors will meet and the Association business meeting will be held.

Restoration of 4299, RB-47H

Another thing Jack has been on top of since the fall of 1998, is monitoring the AFM Restoration staff's rehab of the RB-47H.

Before – Fall 1998 and After – March 2003



From the time of its arrival at Wright Patterson from Salina, KS, where it had fallen into a very bad state of deterioration, until its 'rebirth', Jack was a frequent figure at the site, lovingly documenting each step with photos, and keeping the Board of Directors updated, and the Association web page filled with info on the restoration progress.

For anyone who flew in, worked on, or supported the ol' Boeing beauty, the end result is a

sight to behold and is sure to bring out the nostalgia in each heart and memory. There will be one more chance to view 4299 and even climb aboard. Who can resist that?

She will be the **centerpiece** of the Cold War exhibit. The aircraft flew operational strategic reconnaissance missions for the **55th SRW** at Forbes AFB, KS, in the 1950s and 1960s, and she looks like she is ready to get airborne once more.



THE 55th STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE WING MEMORIAL

Recap and Status Report

We are approaching our goal of having a monument which reflects the spirit and character of the **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing** for the world to see. The USAF Museum is visited by over a million people a year and many of them stroll through the Museum's Memorial Gardens where monuments of various sizes and designs honor the sacrifices and contributions of our service associates. **Even so, ours stands out as impressive and unique.**

Almost two years ago the **55th SRWA** Board started the process to place a monument at the USAF Museum, honoring those members of the **55th SRW** who served honorably, their families, and those who died in the line of duty during the Cold War.

When we began this project, no one could have foreseen the proportions to which it would grow, and the member support it would generate. It is truly a spectacular tribute to the **55th SRW**, and to everyone who gave so generously. It is an effort of which the Association membership, and all former **55th**ers, can be justly proud.

The Funding Drive

There are some quite interesting things to note about the amazing results of the funding drive. The largest individual donation has been \$5555.55. Next is \$5000. A few members and families have given \$1000 and \$500. Widows have donated \$100, \$200, even \$300! Several folks have contributed more than once to raise their original amounts. Surprisingly, only one member thought to give exactly **\$55**.

Boys and girls, the average donation is nearly **\$90 per!** Remember, when we began the drive, we had hoped for the nearly 1000 members to give just \$10 each to reach the original funding goal.

That idea of building a monument valued at about \$10,000 grew to nearly \$50,000, due to the beneficence of the membership; and thus allowed for a much grander and more fitting memorial than initially envisioned. The project became so large that it had to be divided into two phases (2002 and 2003) because of annual gift limitations to the Air Force Museum.

With outstanding membership support for the project, the contributions rolled in and Phase 1 was officially completed in November 2002. That included the erecting of the monument in the Memorial Gardens, with a 14ft x 16ft paver-brick patio around the monument. Of the approximately 1400 bricks which make up the patio, about 500 are dedicated and engraved.

The second phase involves the design and installation of four black granite benches; one in each corner of the patio. The benches represent the three operational flying squadrons (**38th SRS, 338th SRS, 343rd SRS**), and one bench representing the **55th ARS** and **five maintenance and support organizations**. Each of the three ops squadron benches will be inscribed with the name of the squadron, a dedication statement, and a representation of the squadron's emblem. The composite unit bench will list the squadrons and have a dedication statement.

Reg Urschler has led the effort to design and fund the benches with donations from former **55th wing commanders**. He began with the first very generous donation himself, and thirteen other past wing kings have responded so far; plus two widows, a sister, a family and other members. **With those unselfish donations, we have met the funding goal for Phase 2.**

The Monument

On the front of the vertical piece of the monument is inscribed a Strategic Air Command crest, to the left of which is the **55th SRW** emblem. During the Cold War the **55th** was under the command of SAC.

Beneath the crests are a dedication statement, a dedication date, and a quote from a presidential security strategy statement, reminding everyone "that freedom is never really free."

The front face of the base of the monument contains an Honor Roll; the names of those **55th** crewmembers who died in the line of duty during the Cold War. It is sheer irony that the list contains precisely **55** names.



Front view of 55th SRWA Cold War Monument.

On the back side of the vertical piece are laser engravings of five aircraft types **representative of** those flown by the **55th SRW** during the Cold War: an RB-17, RB-29, RB-50, RB-47H, and an RC-135 (with long nose).

The width of the lower part of the vertical piece is 36 inches. The aircraft renderings stretch almost from edge to edge, which makes three of them nearly three feet wide.

The monument was installed on-site last fall, but wet weather since then has precluded the laying of the engraved bricks around the monument. (The ground needs to be packed, and that cannot be done while the ground is wet, since it would force up mud, which could eventually spread over the bricks.) The bricks are near the site, while the installers wait for drier weather.

Dodds Monuments will be able to engrave and install additional bricks before the reunion if the requests are received by July 15th. The \$65 price per brick, remains the same since they now have a setup on-site to accomplish the engravings.

A brick form accompanies this newsletter.

Back view of 55th SRWA Monument



The photo below (*taken at random*) shows examples of bricks which will eventually surround the monument.



It's Not Too Late

If you haven't made your donation, or ordered a brick to be part of the **55th SRWAssn Cold War memorial**, **it is not too late**. If you already have, perhaps you would like to add a brick for your children, or donate to the squadron benches funding. **Every member should want to be part of this historic contribution to our heritage.**

A \$100 contribution still gets a personalized brick and credit for three years dues. If you just

want to order a personalized brick, send your donation of \$65, plus the information you want engraved on your brick, to **Bill Ernst**, 410 Greenbriar Ct., Bellevue, NE, 68005.

Remember that the data on the bricks is limited to three lines with 13 characters per line, which includes spaces and dashes. (No punctuation, please) That's not much space, so use it judiciously. Standard military abbreviations are used for ranks with a few exceptions, such as LTC vice LtCol.

Send your donations, in what ever amount, payable to the **55th SRW Memorial** and mail to **Treasurer Errol Hoberman** at 6441 Avenida De Galvez, Navarre, FL, 32566. **All donations are tax deductible.**

By Jack Kovacs, Bill Ernst and Max Moore



Bill Ernst (L) turns over the documents to gift the 55th SRWAssn monument to the UASF Museum Director, MGen (Ret) Charles Metcalf. Reunion Chairman/Monument Coordinator Jack Kovacs witnesses. 14 November 2002.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

March 2003

I wish you all a very happy 2003 from a very cold and snowy Bellevue, Nebraska. In spite of the cold, plans for the Recon Rendezvous 2003 reunion are being finalized and the registration forms are enclosed. We've planned a terrific sequence of events for your entertainment and plenty of time to reminisce and renew old friendships.

I want to personally thank **Jack Kovacs** for the terrific job he's done for well over three years in keeping us up to speed on the restoration status of

the RB-47H 4299, coordinating the development of the Memorial, and doing the planning and coordination for the reunion. **We all owe him a great deal of gratitude for his dedication and detailed staff work on this monumental effort.** He has planned a great sequence of events for your entertainment with plenty of time to reminisce and renew old friendships.

The hotels are filling up, so don't delay making your reservations. We also have some terrific prizes for early registration (**before 15 June**).

My personal 'thank you' goes to everyone who has given so unselfishly to the **55th SRW** Cold War Memorial. Also I want to personally thank Regis Urschler for raising the funds necessary for the four granite benches at the Memorial. The benches will finish off a truly magnificent tribute to the people who served so gallantly and selflessly during the Cold War. I'm sure you will all be very proud of this addition to our legacy.

As indicated in the last newsletter, the **55th Wing** has changed leadership. **Brigadier General Timothy C. (T.C.) Jones** took the helm with **Colonel John Daly** as his Vice. They walked in the door just in time for the Offutt Open House and Air Show last August. Talk about baptism by fire.

Soon after he took command, several Omaha area **55th SRWA** members met with T.C. over dinner to informally introduce ourselves and discuss the Association, it's relationship and support of the Wing, the Memorial and our goals. It was a terrific evening and General Jones let us know in no uncertain terms that he fully supports the Association and what we're doing. This is a terrific team. Expect great things from the Wing.

For those of you who didn't attend the **55th Birthday Ball**, you missed a wonderful weekend. **Max Moore** has written a complete recap of the event so I won't go into any more detail. I do want to congratulate **"Pop" Kaden** and the late **Hobart Mattison's** family for their selection and installation into the **55th Hall of Fame**.

Additionally, my sincere congratulations to **LtCol Kurt Kramer**, Commander of the **38th RS**, for being selected to receive the **55th SRWA** Award for Excellence for 2002.

Last October the Association treasurer recommended that we purchase a new Association flag. During the discussion that ensued concerning what emblem should go on the flag, and indeed, what is the official emblem of the Association, the

dual shield (the membership pin) was voted on and adopted as the official emblem of the Association by the Board of Directors.

We then asked **Jim Maloney** to look into ordering two flags: one with the **55th SRW** shield and **55th STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE WING** embroidered across the top; and the other with **55th SRWA** dual shield emblem and **55th STRAT RECON WING** above the emblem and **ASSOCIATION** below the emblem. He ordered them while on a TDY to Korea and we currently have them in hand. They are beautiful flags and will be proudly displayed with a new American flag at the reunion in September, and at other appropriate events.



The next periodic Association membership meeting is scheduled at the reunion, Saturday morning, 6 September 2003. As is our custom, we will be electing a Board of Directors for the next term. I would encourage anyone who wishes to serve on the Board to contact **Sam Pizzo**, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, and advise him of your desires.

Last year we lost an inordinate number of our very close fiends. To their families, we send our deepest and most sincere sympathy in your time of grief. We share in your great loss and will miss each of them very much. We hope you will continue to be a part of our very large family.

I hope this finds everyone enjoying good health and looking forward to the get together in Dayton.

Videmus Omnia, Bill Ernst

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*You can't have everything.
Where would you put it?*

NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There will be an election of the Board of Directors at the Dayton reunion general membership meeting. The term of the elected members will extend to the next reunion.

Members currently serving as the elected Directors are: **Bill Ernst (Pres), Robb Hoover (VicePres), Errol Hoberman (Trea), Max Moore (Sectry), Don Griffin, Jim Maloney, Bob Krist and Michael Cook.** Those who have permanent status are: **Sam Pizzo, Sparky Adams, Charlie Waters and Ben White.** LtCol Kermit Neal is the active duty member of the Board. *(The enlisted position was vacated due to a PCS and has not yet been filled.)*

Bylaw 3.1.1 of the Association states: *“There shall be no less than seven or more than eleven elected Directors. Additionally, the serving 55th Wing Commander may nominate two volunteer active duty persons from the Wing to serve on the Board.”* The latter two must be approved by the serving Board.

Bylaw 3.1.2, as amended in March 2000, allows Board members who have been **elected four times** to be exempt from election, should they chose to do so, and be granted “permanent” status *(and not count toward the limit of eleven)*. They can decline and opt to stand for election. A permanent Board member cannot serve as president.

Those currently eligible for permanent status, are: Ernst, Griffin, Hoover, Hoberman, and Moore.

Anyone desiring to be nominated for, or nominate someone for, the Board of Directors should contact Pizzo, who heads the Nominating Committee; or let one of the current Board members know, who can relay to Sam.

At the membership meeting, the president will ask the chairman of the Nomination Committee to present the slate of nominees, and name those who have opted for permanent status. Nominations may be made from the floor, as well.

Once the nominations are closed, the Board of Directors will be elected by vote of the membership in attendance. The newly elected Board then meets after the membership meeting to elect the officers.



PRO-NUN-SEE-A-SHUN

During a recent encounter, a young second lieutenant (are there any other kind?), who professed to have survived four years as a student of *Latin*, informed this editor that the correct pronunciation of the **55thSRW** and current **55th Wing** motto is thus:

Wi - dAy - moose Omnia

He insisted the ‘v’ be pronounced as a ‘w’, and with the mid-syllable and hard A.

Admit it. Didn’t you always wonder about this? Now you know, for what its worth.

However, common usage and personal preference will likely prevail in the use of ‘v’, as in vigilant, valiant, victorious. *Max*



TREASURER’S REPORT

The Association, as of 1 March 2003, had a checking account balance \$9751.72. Another \$5,577.28 is invested in an Association funds CD.

Regarding the monument and bricks, Dodds Monument was paid \$24,975 for the Phase 1 memorial construction in 2002; and the AF Museum was paid \$2,497.50, the one-time cost for perpetual maintenance. Another approximately \$20,000 is due in 2003 for Phase 2 of the project.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of 1 March 2003, the Association had 997 members in good standing, 150 of which are widows and 37 associated members. This is an increase of 41 members since 1 July 2002.

There are now **more active duty members** than ever before as interest has picked up in that area, and the Offutt area members continue to recruit.

Trivia item – The Association has members in **all 50 states**, DC, Guam, Puerto Rico and APO Europe. All this is reflected in the brand new Association roster which accompanies this newsgram.

The four-digit year your dues expire(d) can be found in the upper right hand corner of the mailing label for this newsletter. *(You discarded the envelope already, didn’t you? Well, go look for it and see if you are delinquent.)*

Those who donated \$100 or more to the memorial fund have had their memberships extended for three years.

(Note: if your dues expired in 2000, 2001 or 2002, this is the last newsletter you will receive unless you renew your dues.)

If your dues have expired, \$10.00 is due for 2003; \$25 will update your membership for three years. NOW is the time to renew.

Please remit dues to **55SRW Association** and mail to Errol Hoberman as soon as practical. **The enclosed Association-addressed envelope is for your convenience.**

New members receive the Association's dual-shield lapel pin 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 their area can get the pins from them for \$3.00 without the S/H.



55th WING BIRTHDAY BALL 2003

The 55th Wing Birthday Ball weekend, 31 January and 1 February, was one more mini-reunion, and was among the more stellar in recent memory.

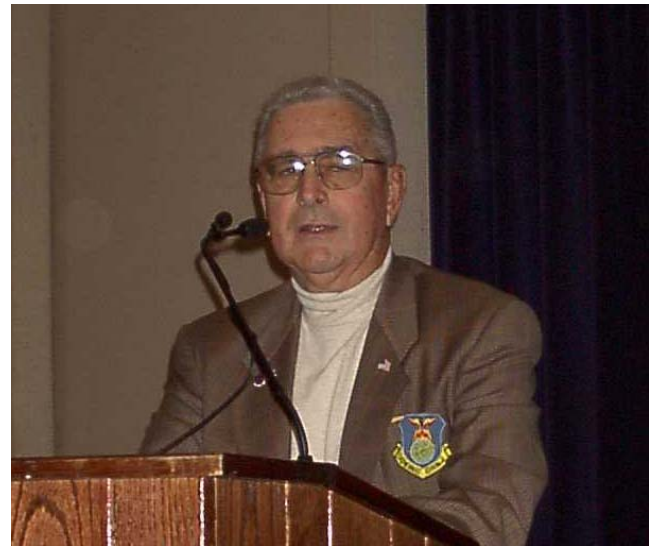
Activities began on Friday afternoon with a dedication of the Hall of Fame at wing headquarters, where the laser-etched plaques of members of the Hall were displayed on the main hallway wall just outside the command section. Wing Commander **BGen Timothy Jones** officiated, and was assisted in the ceremonial ribbon cutting by Hall of Famers **Reg Urschler, Larry Mitchell, Harry Tull** and **Hank Dubuy**. Several Association members joined the wing senior staff in witnessing the event.

“Tales of the 55th”

The assemblage then moved to the Offutt Club to join a larger crowd of active duty troops, Association members and guests for the third annual *“Tales of the 55th,”* ably orchestrated by Hoover and co-emceed by Urschler. The event was

co-sponsored by the Association and the Strategic Roost of the Association of Old Crows.

It began with a social period and the program was opened with the sounding of the recovered **55SRW** bell, which had been used on celebratory occasions in the 1960s at RAF Upper Heyford.



Tovarich Pizzo himself.

Featured speakers this year included: Colonel (Ret) Sam Pizzo, who related his experience as a ‘guest’ navigator with a Soviet aircrew who flew Premier Nikita Krushchev back to Moscow after his visit to the US in 1959; and MGen (Ret) **Ed Giller** who told of WWII air combat stories in the 55th Fighter Group, and his shutdown of a German ME-262 jet.



*Steve Stevens and Max Moore
showing the shirt and the Assn flag*

Colonel (Ret) **Al Feldkamp** and Captain (USN-Ret) **Andy Jampoler** did a show-and-tell on the rescue of a US Navy P-3 crew that had ditched in

the North Pacific in October 1978. Al was an RC-135 Cobra Ball EWO and that crew helped locate the downed Navy crew. CMSgt (Ret) **Denny Haun**, a 30-year veteran aircraft maintainer on B-52s in Linebacker II and the first B-1, who wound up his career on RC-135s, recapped his time in the 55th.

The brand new official Association flag and the 55th SRW flag made their debuts at the function, and we sold a few shirts, caps, ties and pins.

On Saturday morning about 50 of the 55th vets and guests gathered at the Council Bluffs airport for hanger talk (*swapping lies?*) around Urschler's P-51, "*The Gunfighter*".

The Birthday Ball

The 25th annual 55th Wing Birthday Ball was held on Saturday, February 1, 2003, at Harrah's Hotel in Council Bluffs, and an outstanding event it was! This year's theme was contributed by Association Secretary **Max Moore**. For the past six years, he and Ernst have served on the Ball committees as special advisors.



"Duty, Dedication, Destiny" exemplified the commitment of the various generations of **Fightin' Fifty-Fifthers** throughout its long and storied history from its inception in 1941 to the present.

The gala event was attended by a packed house of over 700 active duty wing members, community leaders and retirees. Nearly 130 Association members and guests, including President Ernst, VP Hoover and **Shirley**, Secretary Moore and **Carol**, Board members Sparky Adams, Sam Pizzo, Jim

Maloney and **Peg**, Bob Krist and **Peggy**, Michael Cook and **Tina** represented the **55th SRW Association**.

Four former wing commanders attended: Urschler, **Steve Stevens**, Larry Mitchell with wife **Susan**, and **Dan Peterson** with wife **Katy**.

In addition to the many local Association members, several parties from out of town made attended the festivities: Roy and Gerry Kaden, **George Back**, **Jim** and **Marion Taylor**, **Pete** and **Treva Potter**, **Joe** and **Mary Racine**, **John Turmble**, **Craig** and **Carole Ebejay**, **Gena** and **Roger Craig**, **Hank** and **Sandra Dubuy**, **Al** and **Sandy Feldkamp**, **Al Kamback**, **Ricky** and **Cary McMahon**.

Colonel Mace McElhaney, the Professor of Air Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, brought six AFROTC cadets to the affair; and **Roland** and **Cathy Saenz** hosted five grandchildren and friends. Besides MGen Giller, WWII veterans **Dewey Ballard** and his wife **Mary Frances**, **Harold Hall** and **Neil Webster** represented the **55th Fighter Group**.

The Program

The program included opening and closing remarks by BGen Jones; and the induction of the late LtCol (Ret) **Hobart Mattison** and LtCol (Ret) **Roy "Pop" Kaden** into the Wing's Hall of Fame.

"Matt" was honored for his heroic effort of recovering his RB-47H, crippled by cannon fire from North Korean MiGs, in April 1965. Matt's widow, **Pearl**, and their three sons, **Douglas**, **Phillip**, **Norman** and wives were there to receive the induction plaque.

"Pop" was recognized as a strategic recon pioneer in RB-50s and RB-47s, and was joined by wife Gerry in the ceremonies.



THE 55TH SRW ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Also on the agenda was the presentation of 55SRW Association Award of Excellence to **LtCol Kurt Kramer**, 38thRS commander, by Pres Ernst.

The featured speaker was **General Robert “Doc” Foglesong**, Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force. He literally wowed the audience with an almost extemporaneous, sincere ‘pep’ talk that nearly had the crowd standing on its chairs. His praise of the 55th was such that Pres Ernst made him a member of the Association by ‘pinning’ the general. He proudly wore it the rest of the evening, even when he sang, that’s right, got on the stage and sang, a song with the Night Wing ACC Heartland AF band! (*When was the last time you saw a four-star doing that?*)

BGen Jones, MGen (Ret) Giller and the youngest airman in attendance (she has been in the AF since August), did the ceremonial cutting of the birthday cake, using the 55th SRW Association engraved saber which was donated to the Wing at last year’s Ball. Commiserating, reminiscing, visiting old friends and dancing went on until midnight.

The Ball planning committee was ably led by **Capt Danielle Taylor** of the 55th Services Sqd. She and her team did a superb job of staying on track and getting the job done on the largest formal social event the Wing has all year.

This was an all around superior Ball in a continuing series of outstanding galas. Truly a night to remember.



The Association supports the Ball with an annual donation of \$1000. Shown above is Pres Ernst (R) after giving the check to 55th Wing Commander BGen Timothy Jones. VPres Robb Hoover provided witness.

(Is this “grip and grin” déjà vu all over again?)

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

The Award is an impressive four foot tall, permanent trophy, displayed between presentations in the lobby of the 55th Wing Support Group Headquarters (Bldg C). It is the busiest administration building on Offutt.



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

2002 Award Winner

Active duty Board member **LtCol Kerm Neal**, 55th Ops Group deputy commander, chaired this year’s selection committee. Board members Hoover, Krist, Maloney and Moore made up the committee.

They met in December and chose from eleven outstanding candidates, LtCol Kurt Kramer, the 38th RS commander, as the recipient for 2002. He was recognized for his superior leadership of the most tasked flying squadron in Air Combat Command. He was presented the award at the Wing’s Birthday Ball, 3 February.

The previous award winners were **LtCol Ricky McMahon**, 338th Combat Training Squadron commander, 2000; and **MSgt Steven and MSgt Lisa Haggett** for 2001.

The presentations at the past three Birthday Balls were so well received that this award has become recognized as a prestigious accomplishment among the active duty troops.



T A P S



Michael Anderson; 43, died 1 February 2003. From Spokane, WA; Columbia shuttle payload commander; EC-135 copilot in 2ACCS at Offutt 1986-91; KC-135 AC at Wurtsmith AFB, MI, 1992-93; NASA 1994.

Mary Margaret Audette; 18 February 2001; S. Burlington, VT, wife of **John M. R. Audette**, who died 3 December 2001. (*TAPS Jan 02 VO*)

Elizabeth (Liz) Behrmann; 82, 9 November 2002; Bountiful, UT; wife of John "Curly" from January 26, 1944.

John "Curly" Behrmann; 80, 16 January 2003; Bountiful, UT. "Curly Crow" was truly legendary to the 55th family from the days at Forbes AFB, KS. He served as a flight engineer/gunner aboard B-24s in the UK during WWII. He became an EWO in 1951 and was assigned with the 343rd SRS, where he became an engaging mentor to a generation of EWs. He retired in 1969.

Lanette Clapp; Farmer's Branch, TX.

Assn correspondence returned marked "deceased" August 2002. No other info provided.

Stanley J. Derda; Dayton, OH.

Assn correspondence returned marked "deceased" August 2002. Only info provided.

James (Jim) Hailey; 80, 21 June 2002, Ft Worth, TX; wife **Mattie**. Jim was a WWII, Korean

War and Vietnam War veteran pilot. He later served at Offutt, flying EC/RC-135s flying SAC Airborne Command Post missions with the 2ACCS, then moved to the 38SRS. He retired in September 1975.

Mea culpa: In the August 2002 issue of the VO, Jim's and Mattie's names were inadvertently reversed in TAPS, a human mistake not caught in subsequent reviews and proofing. Due to a typo in the original e-mail announcement, Mattie's name was misspelled. Ed. regrets the errors. (Actually, I really hate it when that happens. Max)

Jimmy P. Haynes; 19 July 2002; Danville, IL; wife **Emma**. Jimmy was a long time RB-47 pilot at Forbes in the 1960s. Moved to Offutt with the 55th and served at Base Ops.

LtGen (Ret) Gerald (Jerry) W. Johnson; 8 September 2002; St Petersburg, FL. A WWII ace. Served as SAC/DO and 8AF/CC at Guam during Linebacker II. Long time friend of the 55th SRW.

William Jones; 84, 23 August 2002, Leesburg, FL; wife **Helen**.

Charles LeGrand; 2 July 2001, O'Fallon, IL.

Only info provided.

Gary Liggett; 62, 15 March 2000, Vacaville, CA; wife **Betty**. B/RB-47 navigator at Forbes. RC-135 nav and staff at Offutt.

Malcolm M. McClenahan; 22 October 2002, Tucson, AZ; wife, **Doris**.

James G. McDonnell; 11 January 2003, Cocoa Beach, FL; wife **Dixie**. RB-47 navigator, staff at Forbes.

Elin McGrew; 2 November 2002 in Kansas City on a family visit, but resided in Bellevue, NE. Wife of **Ralph**, an EWO with the 55th at Offutt in 1967 and 1975

John T. O'Connor; 25 January 2002, Rolling Estates, CA; wife, **Nancy**.

Virginia (Ginny) Penfield; 16 August 2002, Shreveport, LA; wife of George, long time RB-47 A/C at Forbes.

John Roche; 78, 1 December 2002 on a family visit to Homestead, FL, but resided in New Castle, NE. A WWII B-17 pilot, John flew RB-50s with the 55th. He was Stan O'Kelly's copilot when the Soviets shot down the aircraft off Vladivostock on 29 July 1953. John was the sole survivor of the incident after spending over 20 hours in the sea.



John Roche is pictured with Navy personnel aboard the USS Princeton after his rescue.

CMSgt (Retired) Duane Segrist; 12 July 2002, Holton, KS; wife **Shirley**.

LtCol Stephen F. "Sparky" Thomas; 17 September 2002, Bellevue, NE; wife **Julie**. RC-135 pilot and commander of the 45RS, Offutt.

Louis (Lou) Valenta; 17 October 2002 while on a family visit in Minden, NV, altho he resided in Citrus Heights, CA. Wife, **Ginnie**. Lou was a WWII veteran pilot and with the 55th for many years, flying RB-29s, RB-50s and RB-47s at Ramey AFB, PR and Forbes.

Charles J. West; 69, 27 January 2003, Beavercreek, OH; wife, **Joyce**. Charles was a navigator in KC-97s with the 55th ARS at Forbes. Later moved to DC-130s at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, and served in SAC/XPHO at Offutt, 1968-70.

George F. (Fred) Winters; 26 November 2002, Omaha, NE; wife, **Betty**. Fred started his AF career as an air-cop in the SAC Elite Guard. Became an officer and pilot. Flew at Offutt as a copilot on Casey-01 (CINCSAC's bird), and later with the 55th in ECs and RCs.

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LETTERS AND STUFF

Greetings,

As of the last newsletter, I have yet to see any mention of the 55th ARS's contributions to the **55SRW**. To the motto "We See All" could be added, "In Order That All May Be Seen".

Should you choose, you might go back in history and read SAC's award of a "well done" to **Joe Jerry Jones'** crew, Earl **Flora**, navigator.

Also check out **Bob Hale's** crew, **Dan Yurkovich** navigator, as they went north of the prescribed route to get one of the 'soft noses' (RB-47) its needed fuel.

Cordially, **Gail M. Edwards** Redondo Beach, CA

(From a letter August 21, 2002)

* * * * *

Ed. note: The Association president and this editor have fielded criticism from former members of the 55th Air Refueling Sqd noting a lack of coverage in the newsletters regarding that unit's contributions to the 55th SRW and the Cold War. It is not an intentional oversight.

We would welcome input from any of those former comrades with articles or stories in that regard. We can not make up what we don't know, and researching suggested topics for publication is not in our 'charter' due to time and resources limitations.

(When I got to Forbes in RBs in 1960, three of my nav school classmates, and a frat brother from college, were already there assigned to KC-97s in the ARS. The squadron was disbanded shortly thereafter, and although I know of the ARS, I don't know much about its history or accomplishments.)

So, Gail, if you, or any other ARS alum, care to elaborate with an article on the ARS, we will be pleased to share it with the membership.

Likewise, we encourage members to write letters, factual articles and war stories from any era or unit pertinent to the 55th SRW history.

Publication is at the discretion of the editor and advisors, and is dictated by content and available space.

Thank you, Max

* * * * *

Dear Max,

I learned of **Fritz Hyde's** death from the 55th newsletter. Fritz 'served time' on my crew, and was one of those people who made performing in SAC recon such a pleasure. He did a great job for me, and was one of the people who helped me so much when I was an AC (as you did, too).

Another comrade in arms gone. The ranks are thinning too fast.

I want to thank you and Bill (and all involved) for the work on the memorial and the newsletter.

The idea of a reconnaissance park sounds like a good plan.

In addition to serving in the 55th and with the 82nd, I also was in the 7499th ‘Support’ Group in Europe in the sixties. The Group consisted of three squadrons and flew recon missions in C-54s, C-118s, CT-29s (my airplane), C-97s, L-20s, C-130s and many variations of the RB-57s. Their missions were very similar to SAC recon. I think we actually flew some coordinated missions.

The reason I mention the 7499th is that they plan to have representatives at the Recon Rendezvous in Dayton. Perhaps I should wear two ties! I wonder if other 55th veterans also served with the 7499th?

Regards, **Bob Arnold** Loveland, CO
(From an e-mail letter August 20, 2002)

* * * * *

Hi, ‘young lt.’

We just read the newsletter from cover to cover. You do an outstanding job. We would like to thank you for all your time and effort for us, the 55th family. **Patty and Gary Smith** Mesa, AZ

(E-mail August 16, 2002)

* * * * *

Howdy Max,

I just wanted to let you know how great the newsletters have been. I’m a firm believer that correspondence, such as a newsletter, is number one on the list of what it takes to keep a club/organization together.

I hope all the Association members appreciate your hard work, as I do. See you in Dayton.

Larry King Merced, CA

(E-mail August 17, 2002)

* * * * *

Ed. note: The last three above messages were but a sampling of the several favorable communications received by the president and the editor regarding the August 2002 issue of Videmus Omnia. All those comments are sincerely appreciated.

Oh yeah, we get some zingers, as well; but the ‘atta boys’ far outnumber them, thank goodness.

* * * * *

Dick Harriman called and e-mailed in regard to the letter from **James Rodecap** in the last newsletter, which detailed the flying surge from Incirlik AB, Turkey for the air/sea search for a downed USAF RB-57 and crew in December 1965.

Dick sent: **Tom Hoose** was my copilot on those missions over the Black Sea. They were flown at high altitude and provided communications cap for

the planes and ships that were looking for parts and crew of the RB-57.

They were the last missions the 55th flew out of Det 50 at Incirlik. If my memory serves me correctly, my crew flew the last Iron Work (*Tell-Two, Soviet missile launch surveillance*) mission prior to the RB-57 accident.

August 17, 2002 Papillion, NE

* * * * *

*Ed. note: In the following letter, the writer offers an idea which may prompt debate and/or discussion. However, it does **not** represent the views or position of Association’s Board of Directors, the Videmus Omnia, nor its editor. Max*

An Open Letter to the 55 SRWA Membership

First of all, let me say that I am not particularly fond of change. I am as cranky as anyone when a TV show I enjoy suddenly disappears, never to be seen again; or one of my favorite restaurants closes. If a bulldozer appears on a lovely tree-laden lot in our subdivision and starts knocking down oaks in favor of construction, I sulk for days.

New shopping centers don’t tempt me; I like the old, familiar ones. I haven’t changed my hairdo in twenty years. So believe me when I say, recommending change isn’t something I do lightly.

I do tolerate change, when necessary. After all, I’ve been in the Air Force, both on active duty and in the Reserves, for over twenty years. And you all know that the one constant in the Air Force is change. No other organization, I think, is quite as good at reorganizing and reinventing itself. I was annoyed when TAC, SAC, and MAC disappeared in the early nineties. “ACC” and “AMC” just don’t have the same ring. Tradition seemed to be dying, along with the names and unit crests of many of the familiar organizations.

I was never a member of the 55th SRW or the current 55th Wing, or any other associated unit, although I have attended the reunions with my husband for over 15 years. So I believe I can speak as an observer with no personal bias or emotional baggage.

What prompted this letter? I recently received a notice from The Retired Officers Association (TROA) explaining that the name of the organization has changed to the Military Officer Association of America (MOAA), in an effort to broaden their base of membership. It reminded me

of some thoughts I had on the **55th SRWA** and my husband urged me to set them down on paper.

At several reunions I have listened to the 55 SRWA leadership acknowledge that the current membership is aging. They are looking for ways to get younger members, and to increase the involvement of the current active duty generation.

Folks, I think it's time to admit there is only one way. **The 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing** lives on in memory, but doesn't exist in reality any more. The active duty or recently retired members of the 55th Wing won't join an organization that isn't "theirs". And they were never in the **55 SRW**.

The "dual shield" logo was a great start, but it's time for a name change -- time to follow TROA's lead and rename this august group the "55th Wing Association" or something similar.

That alone will not convince younger troops to join in droves, but it will take the first step toward convincing them that it is their organization too. When the time comes, they'll be more willing to join. And if you want this organization to live on beyond its current membership, that's what has to be done.

Susan Curran Hoberman,
LtCol, USAFR, GS-12, DAFC

January 6, 2003 Navarre, FL

* * * * *

*It may be time to once again explain the policy of why names are **bolded** and when. Of course there are those of you out there who have pondered that very issue, particularly if there seems to be some inconsistency.*

*Names are put in **bold print** the first time they appear in the text. At other times it may be done for emphasis.*

*Sometimes, I forget that I did it. Other times, I might forget **TO** do it. There. Hope that is all cleared up now. Max*

* * * * *

ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

The Association has a new batch of polo shirts with the official dual shield logo on them available for sale. The logo is on the left breast, no pocket, white with red trim, navy blue front placket. They are 100% combed cotton and identical to the originals. Cost is up slightly at \$23 per shirt.

The March 2003 shirt inventory by sizes: small - 5; medium - 20; large - 27; XL - 9; XXL - 3; XXXL - 1. If sales go well, we can order more.

I wear a size 42S in a sport coat and the large fits me comfortably. Mine has been washed and dried several times and has held up well with no fading and very little shrinkage.

Also available at \$7 each are 18 golf/baseball caps; royal blue with the dual shield. At present, there are no plans to reorder.

Both items are of excellent quality and, by consensus, the best we have ever had. One more way to readily identify with your Association and 'show the logo' at appropriate events. They are even popular with the active duty troops of the 55th Wing. And they are unisex, so get one for '*She who must be obeyed*'.

Max Moore is the vendor for the shirts and caps. Anyone desiring to purchase either or both can e-mail him at: MaxMoore55@aol.com; phone: (402) 291-8272; or write: 201 Basswood Court, Bellevue, NE 68005-2001

The items can be viewed on the Association web site at **www.55srwa.org**, and click on the Clothing Sales link.

There are charges for postage to be added to the individual item costs: \$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 **55th SRW Association**.

For sure you will want to have one, or both, of these items (and an Assn tie) in time for the grand Recon Rendezvous 2003. Come and get 'em!!!

* * * * *

THE ASSOCIATION TIE

It 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 Board of Directors is encouraging as many members as possible to purchase and wear the tie to appropriate events, and **especially the banquet** at the reunion in Dayton. There will be other organizations represented there and we want to demonstrate the **55th's show of force**.

The price is \$20 each which includes shipping, postage. Order now so as not to be left out. Of 316 ordered there are about 80 ties

remaining for purchase. Sales have been steady. **This was a one-time procurement and when they are gone, they're gone.**

Those not sold by Sam, if any, will be available at the reunion. Contact him at (985) 845-7455 or e-mail: sampizzo@webtv.net.

A large attendance is expected in Dayton, so **don't wait to get your tie.**



55th SRWA TIES

\$20.00 Each
Make Checks Payable To
55th SRW Association-Ties
No Cash Please

Mail Check to:
Sam Pizzo
218 Nottoway Dr.
Mandeville, La. 70471

Wear Yours at the
Memorial Dedication
September 2003

(As an alternative to the wearing of the tie, in keeping with current-day skin fashion statements, one could tattoo the dual shields on a visible portion of one's anatomy. Maybe not. Max.)



ASSOCIATION BUSINESS & MEMBERSHIP SOURCES

Business/Policy/Reunion Suggestions:

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Treasurer Errol Hoberman
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E-mail: SAC-EWO@mchsi.com

Newsletter Editor:

Secretary Max Moore
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E-mail: MaxMoore55@aol.com

Association Web Page Comments/Ideas

Don Griffin
8683 Rawhide Lane, #11
Wilton, CA 95693
E-mail: dgrif@citlink.net

TAPS – News of Association members, friends and associates taking the “Big PCS”, hitting “High Flight”, “folding wings”, etc., should be sent to Max Moore. **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 55th, and any other pertinent information, if known.**

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

(Note: In other words, if there are mistakes, it's someone else's fault! I wish. Max.)



YOUR 55TH SRW ASSN WEB SITE **www.55srwa.org**

The Association homepage continues to garner rave reviews from those who go there. If you have not already done so, you are urged to check it out.

Webmeister **Don Griffin** and his creative cyber-sidekick, **Dave Johnson**, form a dynamic duo to maintain the site. They do some eye-popping work, folks.

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 sites of interest.

The previous newsletter is posted, along with upcoming and updated reunion info and important

bulletins on projects in progress, such as the Cold War monument.

There is e-mail traffic on many subjects of interest to members. Lots of good stuff.

Even so, Grif is always looking for input from members. Send him pictures, war stories, anything you want to share with the Association.



The Fightin' Fifty-Fifth Reunion Song

To the tune of "Hey, Look Me Over"

Hey! Look us over,
The 55th is here.

We're a bunch over rovers,
Traveled far and near.

We get together
Almost every year.

If ever a wing in SAC there was,
The 55th's the best because,

We've looked you over
From way up in the sky.

We've flown to places
Faint hearts wouldn't try.

Oh, the 55th's the first to fight,
We're always Number One.

So move over, World,
Here we come!!!



By Joe and Dottie Gyulavics and John and Reese Drost at the reunion in Seattle, August 1992.

Okay, gang. Either memorize this, cut it out or bring a copy with you to Dayton. You will be expected to sing this at least once during hospitality time, and perhaps at the banquet.

All together now!



FLYERS' HEAVEN

I hope there's a place way up in the sky,
where old flyers can go to on the day they die.
A place where a guy can buy a cold beer,
for a friend and a comrade, whose memory is dear.
A place where no doctor or lawyer can tread,
nor an FAA type would 'ere be caught dead.
Just a little place, kind of dark, full of smoke,
where they like to sing loud, and love a good joke.
The kind of a place where a lady could go,
and feel protected by the men she would know.
There must be a place where old flyers go,
when the flying is over, and the airspeed gets low.
Where the whiskey is old, and the women are
young, and songs about flying and dying are sung.
Where you'd see all the troops who'd flown west
before, and they'd call out your name, as you came
through the door.

Who would buy you a drink, if your thirst should be
bad, and relate to others, "He truly was quite a good
lad".

And then through the mist, you'd spot an old guy,
you had not seen in years, tho he taught you to fly.
He'd nod his gray head, and grin ear to ear,
and say, "Welcome, my boy, I'm pleased that you're
here.

For this is the place where the true flyers come,
when their journey is over, and their wars have been
won.

They've come here at last, to be safe and free from
the government clerk, the management clone,
politicians and lawyers, the Feds and the noise.
Where all hours are happy, and we're all good ol'
boys.

You can relax with a cold one, maybe deal from a
deck. This is heaven my son..... **You've passed
your last check!"**
Author Unknown



Life is sexually transmitted.

Many people are caused by accidents.



A TRIBUTE TO MILITARY SPOUSES!!

Over the years, I've talked a lot about military spouses...how special they are and the price they pay for freedom, too. The funny thing about it, is most military spouses don't consider themselves different from other spouses. They do what they have to do, bound together, not by blood or merely friendship, but with a shared spirit whose origin is in the very essence of what love truly is. Is there really a difference? I think there is. You have to decide for yourself.

Other spouses get married and look forward to building equity in a home and putting down family roots. Military spouses get married and know they'll live in base housing or rent, and their roots must be short as they may be transplanted frequently.

Other spouses decorate a home with flair and personality that will last a lifetime. Military spouses decorate a home with a style tempered with the knowledge that no two base houses have the same size windows or same size rooms. Curtains have to be flexible and multiple sets are a must. Furniture has to fit like puzzle pieces.

Other spouses have living rooms that are immaculate and seldom used. Military spouses have immaculate living room/dining room combos. The coffee table got a scratch or two moving from place to place, but it still looks pretty good.

Other spouses say good-bye to their mates for a business trip and know they won't see them for a week. They are lonely, but can survive. Military spouses say good-bye to their deploying service member and know they won't see them for months, or for a remote, a year. They are lonely, but will survive.

Other spouses, when a washer hose blows off, call the repairman, and then write a check for getting the hose reconnected. Military spouses will cut the water off and fix it themselves.

Other spouses get used to saying "hello" to friends they see all the time. Military spouses get used to saying "good-bye" to friends made the last few years.

Other spouses worry about whether their child will be class president next year. Military spouses worry about whether their child will be accepted into yet another new school next year, and whether that school will be the worst in the city or not.

Other spouses can count on husband/wife participation in special events....birthdays, anniversaries, concerts, football games, graduation, and the birth of a child. Military spouses count on each other; because they realize that the Flag has to come first if freedom is to survive. It has to be that way.

Other spouses put up yellow ribbons when the troops are imperiled across the globe, and take them down when the troops come home. Military spouses wear yellow ribbons around their hearts and they never go away.

Other spouses worry about being late for mom's Thanksgiving dinner. Military spouses worry about getting back from Japan in time for dad's funeral.

Other spouses are touched by the television program showing an elderly lady putting a card down in front of a long, black wall that has names on it. The card simply says "Happy Birthday, Sweetheart. You would have been sixty today." A military spouse is the lady with the card. And the wall is the Vietnam Memorial.

I would never say military spouses are better or worse than others. But I will say there is a difference. And I will say that our country asks more of military spouses than is asked of other spouses. And I will say, without hesitation, that military spouses pay just as high a price for freedom as do their active duty husbands or wives.

Perhaps the price they pay is even higher. Dying in service to our country isn't nearly as hard as loving someone who has died in service to our country, and having to live without them.

God bless our military spouses, past and present, for all they freely give. And God bless America!

(The source of this tribute is believed to have been written by a military leader: name, rank and service unknown to the editor, so VO is unable to give attribution. Nonetheless, it is appropriate. Max.)

* * * * *

Good judgement comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

*Never pass up a good chance to shut up.
A closed mouth gathers no feet.*

* * * * *

A TALE OF A BELL

RB-47 Crew S-67 of the 343rd SRS of the **55th** was TDY at RAF Upper Heyford in England in 1965 when the crew realized that the O-club bar had no bell, and therefore no way of ‘dinging’ officers who entered the bar without removing their hats. Since by tradition, offending officers were obliged to buy drinks, the situation had to be remedied.

The six crewmen, **Howard Rust**, **Vic Prislusky**, **Arlen Howe**, Harry Tull, Robb Hoover and **Chuck Meyer**, bought a brass bell, inscribed it with the name of the wing and their own names, and donated it to the bar as a permanent fixture.

Fast forward to 1970. That year the **55th** detachment was being transferred to RAF Mildenhall. **Conrad Beggs**, stationed at Eielson AFB in Alaska and on TDY, who thought that the bell should rightly be located where the recon crews were to operate, asked the Upper Heyford base commander for permission to move the bell to Mildenhall. Permission was flatly and unequivocally denied.

Beggs and **Bill Henderson** decided the bell needed to be ‘liberated’. So Henderson did so, in shall we say, a clandestine manner (*details are still classified*), the intent being to relocate the bell to Mildenhall.

However, when the discovery of the bell’s ‘migration’ became known to the UH base CO, a real uproar ensued with angry calls being made to higher ups at Eielson and SAC HQ, and words such as “courts martial” being bandied about.

Discretion dictated that the bell be spirited back to Eielson until things cooled off, where Beggs kept it stashed until his retirement in 1975. After moving to Arkansas, Beggs hung the bell from his porch for the next 27 years.

In July 2002 at a local meeting of the Daedalians, Beggs related the ‘tale of the bell’. In the audience sat Roy “Pop” Kaden, another veteran 55ther, who, upon inspecting the bell, saw Hoover’s name on it.

He subsequently called Robb and set in motion events which led to Beggs returning to the bell to the 55th Wing at Offutt.

At a ceremony during ‘happy hour’ at the O-club on Friday, August 23, 2002, Open House/Air Show eve, with many veteran 55thers and active duty troops in attendance, including three of the former crewmen whose names were inscribed on

the bell: Tull, Howe and Hoover, Beggs presented the bell back to the Wing.



L to R: Hoover, Tull, Howe

Tull then rang the bell, 37 years after he was given the honor of ringing it for the first time at Upper Heyford.

The bell is now displayed with **55th** memorabilia housed at the Dougherty Conference Center at Offutt, and will be used on appropriate occasions to celebrate the wing’s heritage. Most recently it was rung to open the “Tales of the 55th” event on 31 January 2003. In September 2003 it will be rung during the dedication ceremonies for the monument to the **55th SRW**. Members who died in the line of duty during the Cold War will be recognized and the intent is to sound the bell once after each of the **fifty-five** names is announced.



REUNIONS

**AIR FORCE NAVIGATORS
OBSERVERS ASSN (AFNOA)
October 8-12 2003, Daytona Beach, FL**

Ocean Walk Resort

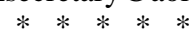
Contact: **Jim Bannerman**, Reunion Coordinator

Write: 761 Marina Point Drive

Daytona Beach, FL 32114-5050

Phone: (386) 257-3853

E-mail: AFNOAsecretary@aol.com



**B-47 STRATOJET ASSN, 4th Reunion
September 23-25 2004, Dayton, OH**

USAF Museum, Dedication of B-47 Memorial

Contact: **Dick Purdum**, Assn President

Write: 13310 S. 26th Avenue,

Bellevue, NE 68123
Phone: (402) 291-5247
E-mail: DickPurdum@aol.com

* * * * *

AIR FORCE PHOTOMAPPING ASSN REUNION 2003

October 1-5 2003, Nashville, TN

Contact: **Dwayne and Betty Flatt**

Write: P.O. Box 3536,

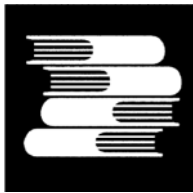
Jacksonville, TN 38303-3536

Phone: (731) 427-7783

Email: 2flatts@bellsouth.net

* * * * *

BOOK PLUGS



William E. Burrows' book, "*By Any Means Necessary*, America's Heroes Flying Secret Missions in a Hostile World" is a well researched history of the clandestine air war during the Cold War. The **55th SRW** is mentioned many times, and indeed, many **55th** veterans were interviewed and/or are mentioned in the narrative.

Burrows' acknowledges, "the ubiquitous Robb Hoover is this book's godfather" for his significant assistance from the beginning of the book's research and editing.

The book has been available in paperback since September 2002 (in hardcopy since October 2001) for \$10.50 via amazon.com.

The cover of the paperback features the ever popular picture of lined-up crewdogs beside an RB-47H. They are: A/C Jim Taylor, CP **Dick Tucker**, Nav **Tom Reed**, R1 **Bill Lewis**, R2 Hoover, R3 Hoberman, the younger, slimmer versions in 1966.

* * * * *

Bruce Hiemark, **55thSRW Association** member, published a book entitled, "*The OSS Norwegian special Operations Group in World War II*". It is available in paperback and can be ordered directly from the publisher: Booksurge, Ph: 1-866-308-6235, ext: 20; or via e-mail at booksurge.com for \$14.99 plus shipping and handling.

William E Colby, a former Director of the CIA, wrote the forward to the book. Colby led Operation RYPE, a mission to sabotage the Norland railways in order to disrupt German troop movements in Nazi-occupied Norway in 1945. When Germany capitulated in May that year, Colby took formal surrender of the Grenadierregiment 722 of the Wehrmacht led by Colonel Von Osten.

* * * * *



*Picture Acknowledgements: Jack Kovacs for the memorial, museum, Metcalf and 4299 shots; **Walt Davis** for the Assn flag, Pizzo, Stevens/Moore; **AIC Tom Dorscher** of the 55th Wing PA staff for Kramer/Ernst; Robb Hoover for Roche and the returned bell trio; and **Jerry Needham** for the Ball check.*

Of those folks, some were takers and some were providers.

This issue has more photos and graphics than any before. Grateful appreciation is expressed to all of those who contributed, and to those who have helped educate a computer-challenged techno-babe in the cyberspace-woods. Max

* * * * *

E – NEWSLETTER

The *Videmus* Omnia begins another chapter with this issue. For the first time members who so desire will receive the newsletter via electronic transmission. Here is how it is done: Go to

http://www.55srwa.org/55_news_apr03.html

At the bottom of the page where it says Download Adobe Acrobat Reader here FREE, click there to download the April 2003 Newsletter PAID VERSION in PDF.

If you have Adobe Reader, download the 'newsletter paid version'. Open it with a password to be provided when notification is given that the newsletter is ready for downloading. If you do not have Adobe reader, download and install the FREE reader, then download the newsletter per above.

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