



Videmus Omnia

55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2006

REUNION OMAHA/OFFUTT-“RETURN TO RECCA”

20-24 SEPTEMBER 2006

PILGRIMAGE COMPLETE!!!



The 25th reunion of *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth* was one more in a line of memorable gatherings of veterans, families and friends of the Association. This one was made more so as the ‘old guard’ was able to visit the home of the current generation of warriors in the 55th Wing at Offutt AFB, NE.

President and Reunion Chair Jim Thomas’ attention to every planning detail paid off in a big way as the events flowed and his minions of volunteers made for an enjoyable and varied series of activities appealing to all who participated.

The Embassy Suites staff, led by **Annebeth Kearney Black** and **Beth Groh**, could not have been more accommodating. Questions became ‘can do’, and suggestions were commands as every staff member did not hesitate to make the guests and attendees pleased and comfortable in every manner.

Registration was steady from the git-go on Wednesday the 20th, and at times was hectic, but never chaotic due to the diligent oversight of **Michael Cook**. All told **330** souls signed-in for all or parts of the festivities.



Registration guru Mike Cook, Kevin Todd, the Gurneys, Jim Nelson, Pete Glenboski

Some came in early and others stayed past Sunday. The weather was atypical for Omaha in September (some rain and coolish temps), but that did not dampen the ardor of getting together with friends and comrades (with the exception of the golfers who got dumped on and had to cancel.)

As always the hospitality area was the focal point with generous hours each day. Having it in adjoining suites allowed the Association to bring in our own refreshments which was a cost savings boon. Bartenders **Kim** and **Amy**, identical twins, kept on top of it all (and also caused some confusion among the revelers who thought they might be seeing double early and often).



Hospitality suite overflows into the halls

The variety of tours allowed participants to see how Omaha has grown and prospered in addition to visiting some of the area's attractions.

Two bus loads made the excursion on I-80 to Lincoln Airpark to see the 55th operations area while Offutt's runway undergoes extensive rehab, and toured an RC-135U Combat Sent aircraft. On the return leg, they visited the former SAC Museum near Ashland, NE, and then had lunch at Mahoney State Park's lodge. While at the Museum **Tom Reed** held forth explaining the operations of the SR-71, which is the focal display in the museum's main entrance atrium.



Others went to the Lauritzen Botanical Gardens, or Boys Town and Village Pointe Mall. Bus commanders **Pete Glenboski**, **Shirley Hoover** and **Carol Moore** rode herd on the various groups and lost nary a person.

The banquet was held on Friday night and featured the Noteables big band component of the ACC Heartland of America Band from Offutt. The ladies and gents were gussied up and on their best behavior for the most part. The Association 'regimental' tie and sparkling 55th pins were in evidence where ever one looked.



Pres Thomas asked the **Reverend Fred Glass**, the Assn ex-officio chaplain, to give the opening blessing, and **Harry Tull** rang the ceremonial bell to begin the program. Thomas recognized the 2005 winner of the **55th SRW Association** Award for Excellence, **MSgt Norman De La Vega**, of the 55th Security Forces Sqd (Elite Guard). Since he was deployed once again, his wife **Aneth** was present.



Head table: L to R: 55th Wg Vice Cmdr, Col Curtiss Petrek, LtGen (Ret) George Miller, Dorene Sherman, Mrs Aneth De La Vega, Assn Pres Jim Thomas

The Assn membership meeting on Saturday morning drew about 150 folks to attend to business.

Pres Thomas gave a state of the Association, and reviewed accomplishments and Board actions since the last reunion. The election of the Board of Directors, and deciding where to have the next reunion in the spring of 2008, among other business, were concluded. The complete minutes of that meeting follows in this newsletter.

Col Don Kelly, the **55th Wing** Operations Group Deputy Commander and Assn Board member, presented the Wing's Unit Mission briefing which gave members a full update on how the largest and busiest wing in Air Combat Command conducts its wide, varied and important missions every day.



The wing has diverse operational responsibilities worldwide, but also has been the host unit at Offutt since 1986. In addition, there are component units at RAF Mildenhall, UK; Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan; Souda Bay, Crete; Davis Monthan AFB, AZ; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Hurlburt Field, FL, all under the command of **BGen Jonathan George**. The wing deployed troops and aircraft to Southwest Asia in 1990 and have been in operations there ever since.

Saturday's afternoon highlight excursion was to Offutt where two buses of "rubbernecks" got to view the many changes at the base; toured the ground simulator area, and Wing HQ building command section and Hall of Fame area.



The simulator was stimulating.

45th RS Commander and Association Board member, **LtCol Ken Bauer** had no trouble marshalling volunteers to assist in the Lincoln and Offutt tours. Those troops were **Captains Nick Wisnewski** and **Brandon Pollett**, and **Lieutenants Wes Cramer, Bobby Wren, and Travis Degan**, and **SrAnn Jonathan Fruzen**. Well done by all hands!

The grand finale of this reunion was the Saturday night informal barbeque held in the spacious Offutt Aero Club Hangar.

The crowd swelled to over 450 as the Association **hosted** over 100 active duty personnel and guests of all ranks and specialties from the Wing. The intermingling of the veterans, families, and the current crop of ***Fightin' Fifty-Fifthers*** was a rewarding experience the extent of which has not been duplicated to this scale at past reunions.



Kevin Todd, 55th guest, Virginia Sul, Tom and Francine Garrity, and others, partake of the BBQ spread

Pres Thomas also emceed this event which opened with the ringing of the bell once again. This time, besides three living members of the original RB-47 crew whose names are inscribed on the bell (Tull, **Robb Hoover** and **Arlen Howe**), **TSgt Sean Kress** (an AF recruiter assigned to the 343rd, yes

that's right, Recruiting Sqd at Offutt), grandson of **Howard Rust**, the crew commander; and **Tom Prislusky**, son of the late **Victor**, who was the copilot, were present to assist in opening ceremony.



L to R: Prislusky, Kress, Howe, Tull, Hoover Thomas at podium

Thomas introduced BGen George, whose remarks about the past generations establishing a legacy for the troops of today set the perfect tone for what the evening was to accomplish: the bonding of generations with a proud heritage and continuing history of serving this great nation in the best wing in the [Air Force](#), then and now.



BGen George addresses and inspires the attendees at the barbeque.

Hoover paid tribute to the family of Lloyd Navarro; a picture of an RC-135 in flight over the mountains of Afghanistan was given away; and the gala began, and had a rousing finale, with entertainment provided by "The Aviators" troupe, who performed 1940s and WWII tunes to the

delight of every age group represented at the extravaganza.



All in all this reunion will be long remembered for the emotional relationships that were continued, renewed and begun.

We hope you enjoy the reunion photo album at the latter part of this newsletter.

Onward to reconvene Washington, DC, in the spring of 2008!! *Videmus Omnia Forever!!!!*



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings from the Heartland:

Another reunion in the bag. I sure hope that those who were able to attend enjoyed their time spent at Omaha/Offutt, and enjoyed the opportunity to see the current [55th Wing](#) personnel up close and personal.

The mission of the *Fightn' Fifty-Fifth* has grown and diversified into many unique challenges. The Old Guard had an opportunity to meet the New Generation that is taking on these challenges each and every day. The reunion was a grand occasion to reconnect with the legacy that we all contributed to and to see it living on today. A loud **VIDEMUS OMNIA** to all who made the reunion possible especially the support provided by the very busy men and women of the *Fightn' Fifty-Fifth* and senior leadership **BGen Jonathan George** and **Colonel Curtiss Petrek**.

Next Reunion

We have another event of importance coming. We have done our homework and the membership has decided that the next reunion is to be at Washington, DC, in the spring of 2008. Ricky McMahon has stepped up to the plate and volunteered to arrange for the next rendezvous. This one will be a huge task in the making. I encourage those who live in the DC area to contact Ricky and to be available when reinforcements are needed.

The DC area is known as an expensive place to go. Many have expressed a concern with this aspect of a reunion in DC. Well, one way out of that hole is to break out of old, self-imposed planning conventions and go for corporate support to relieve the hit to our war-chest while making it attractive for the membership to participate. I think we have the where-with-all to make this happen. Lots will occur before the spring of 2008 to make a good reunion. We are in good hands as Ricky and the DC crew will lead the way. Y'all be careful out there so we can meet again in DC and see the magnificent sites and scenes of the city, including the new Air Force Memorial, the WWII Memorial, et al.



Coin shown as actual size

Above is a picture of the coin (1.75" diameter) that was a gift presented to all who registered for the reunion. We bought extras to get the volume-buy discount. To purchase same, make checks payable to the **55th SRW Association**. Send check and mailing instructions to my home address 4418 Anchor Mill Dr, Bellevue, NE, 68123. **Coins are \$5 each, plus postage for 1-3 coins...\$1; 4-6 coins...\$2; 7-9 coins...\$3; 10 or more coins – contact me for cost and availability.** You can view a color representation of the coin on the Association website, www.55srwa.org/sales.

Hall of Fame Nominations Process

At the reunion membership meeting I put out the call for submissions to the Hall of Fame for the 2007 cycle. Let me address a few more items here and redo that call out. Submissions for the next cycle are due to me **NLT 15 Dec 2006**. That is the latest date that a complete and correct submission can be properly worked to be considered for presentation at the **55th Wing Birthday Ball** scheduled next for 31 March 2007. Earlier is better, of course. The Hall of Fame Criteria and Process is available on our website at www.55srwa.org linked to Memorandum for Record (#07211047), and later in this edition of the *Videmus Omnia* (pgs 18-19).

Modifications to the process are necessary each year based on the date of the Birthday Ball and changing names of committee members. Applicable changes for this cycle are mail/deliver original package to Jim Thomas, 4418 Anchor Mill Dr, Bellevue, NE 68123. Electronic submissions may be made to JThomas927@aol.com. We will make copies of the package submitted for use by the committee members.

Writing styles, availability of live witnesses, availability of source documents, makes it sometimes problematic when building a package for acts accomplished 40 years ago compared to more recent times. We have standardized the makeup of the package and specified the criteria for eligibility in order to level the playing field and to **prevent** the process becoming "a writing contest". "Just the facts, ma'am. Just the facts."

Pay special attention to para 6 dealing with nominator signature and **one** additional individual witness and/or supporting documentation. We have a solid program which seeks to recognize the most outstanding contributors to the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*

missions...those worthy of our admiration and the admiration of future airman in the wing.

Please check out the new section on our website, *Memory Lane*. It is a "gold mine" of **55th** memories and happenings that are priceless. Furthermore, it is a safe place to store those bits of history. Antics, war stories, unique accomplishments - there is now a place to "put that stuff." And if you have been holding out with some of those stories, it's time to share 'em with the rest of the gang. Check out the articles (11 now) just to flex that dormant part of the gray matter and, tell us those stories that deserve to be told. More detail on that later in this newsletter.

Thanks to all who provided photos of the reunion. Grif will be putting many on the web site and Max has put a bunch in this newsletter. Over to Max and another outstanding newsletter.

Videmus Omnia, Jim

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MINUTES

SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2006

EMBASSY SUITES DOWNTOWN/OLD MARKET
OMAHA, NE

President Jim Thomas called the meeting to order at 0905. He noted that a quorum was present to conduct any Association business.

He called for Secretary **Max Moore** to read the minutes from the membership meeting at the San Diego reunion in March 2005. Bill Simon moved to dispensed with that reading. Motion was seconded by many and passed. Moore noted for the record that the minutes had been published in the May 2005 *Videmus Omnia* newsletter and was available on the Association web site.

George Miller moved the minutes be approved. Seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer **Errol Hoberman** gave the Assn financial report as of 1 September. The checking account has \$5083.15; the savings account has \$3471; and a CD has \$10,273.56. **The Association is solvent.** He also reported that there are now 1181 members in good standing.

Sparky Adams moved the reports be accepted. Seconded. Motion passed.

Historian **Robb Hoover** related that a good working relationship had been established with the 55th Wing Historian's office. He reported on the latest in "**Pop**" **Kaden's** quest to see that all his former crew members were presented DFCs at ceremonies. He commented on the composite CD he had compiled of wing and Association vignettes, which had been showing in the hospitality suite. It was such a popular feature that many attendees wanted to secure copies of the CD. Hoover stated he would make copies and that word would be publicized thru the web site and newsletters when they became available.



Thomas called upon Moore to give a nomination committee report. Moore noted that there were three categories of members on the Board of Directors: permanent members who had opted for that status after being elected four or more times; elected members of which the limits are no less than seven, but no more than eleven; and the two active duty representatives.

He listed the current BoD nominated for election as: Pres Thomas, VPres **Ricky McMahan**, Secretary Moore, Webmaster **Don Griffin**, Michael Cook, **Joe Gyulavics**, **Dennis Haun**, **George Ross**, **Fox Censullo** and **Kevin Todd**. A new nominee is **Larry Utley**. Moore added that Treas Hoberman had opted for permanent status after having been elected seven times. He noted that the active duty members **Col Don Kelly** and **LtCol Ken Bauer** would remain on the BoD.

Pres Thomas opened the floor for nominations. Cook nominated Pete Glenboski.

Moore was recognized and stated that since there were now 12 nominees for 11 BoD positions, that in the interest of harmony and simplicity, he would opt for permanent status having been elected seven times.

Ham Kennedy then moved the nominations be closed. Seconded and passed. Miller moved that the

slate of nominees for the Board be elected by acclamation. Seconded and passed.

Pres Thomas announced the names of four Association members the BoD deemed worthy of being awarded Life Membership under By Law 7.4 as having “made very special contributions in service or otherwise to the Association”. Those are: **Bruce Bailey**, a past leader of the Assn; past president **Sam Pizzo**; past president **Bill Ernst**; and **Jack Kovacs**, the Cold War Memorial Coordinator and Dayton Reunion chair.

Thomas noted that the next reunion in the spring of 2008 needed a site and chairman. Member **Dick Ray** offered to host one in Tampa, FL. VPres McMahon offered to chair one in the Washington, DC-area. Thomas called for a show of hands for each location and Washington, DC, was the favorite by nearly a two to one margin.



The president then reviewed the status and growth of the Association, and noted the many actions since the last reunion in March 2005. They included: the amending of Article VIII and Bylaw 7 to specify classes of membership in the Association; former wing commander **MGen Craig Koziol** was presented a copy of the book “We See All” and sent a framed picture of the new Offutt Cemetery flag/flag pole. The Association participated in that project in September of 2005 and it was dedicated at a ceremony on Veterans Day, 11 November 2005.

The Association was invited to give a briefing at a Wing Stand-up Meeting in March 2006 at which Thomas, Hoover and Moore gave a tag-team synopsis of who, why and what the Assn is. They

also told of what it has accomplished and of the several contributions in support of the Wing.

Thomas reported on the dinner the Association hosted for a meet and greet with the incoming wing commander BGen Jonathan George in November 2005. He also told of the success of the *Tales of the Fifty-Fifth* on 31 March 2006, which had the highest attendance to date, including a large active duty cadre. He further reported on the Association’s participation and donation to the Wing Birthday Ball, and the Award for Excellence and Hall of Fame presentations that were made at the Ball.

Another donation was to the 55th Fighter Group Memorial dedicated at Wormingford, UK, last summer. The Association and individual members sent a total of \$1500 to support the ceremonies.

Thomas then reported the status of relationship between the Association and the Wing. He noted that dialogues have been proactive with open communication between the local Assn officers and members and the Wing senior staff. He gave specific examples of the Ball, Hall of Fame administration, and input regarding a proposed Offutt memorial project. He gave specific examples of the Ball, Hall of Fame administration, and input regarding a proposed Offutt memorial project. Thomas remarked that the Association’s contributions “have made a difference in the Wing.”

Moore commented that the Assn in 1997 had just over 500 members, but now has over 1100. He complimented the effort of Membership Chair Hoberman who initiated a ‘we want you back’ campaign this year that netted 72 returned members.

Webmaster Griffin reported on the Association web site status, and acknowledged the contributions and untimely loss of his able assistant, **Dave Johnson**. He noted the need to keep up with current technologies, and told of the newly added *Memory Lane* feature.

Cook reported that the reunion attendance for the banquet was 312 and total registration was 330. Thomas noted that today (*Saturday, 23 Sep*) was Offutt Day to culminate the reunion with afternoon tours of the base and the windup BBQ in the hangar to interact with the active duty troops that evening.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 0943.

* * * * *

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Immediately after the membership meeting, the Board of Directors met to elect officers. Re-elected to the positions were: Pres Thomas, VPres McMahon, Treas Hoberman, Secty Moore.

Pres Thomas then reappointed the following:
Awards chair: Thomas; webmaster: Griffin; historian: Hoover; newsletter editor: Moore; membership chair: Hoberman; and McMahon was named chair of the 2008 reunion.



L to R: Kneeling, Utley, Haun, Moore, Adams;
Center row: Hoover, Todd, McMahon; Standing rear:
Griffin, Maloney, Ross, Kelly, Censullo, Hoberman,
Thomas, Cook, Gyulavics, Pizzo.
Not present: Bauer, Ernst, Glenboski, Waters.

* * * * *

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS & MEMBERSHIP SOURCES DIRECTORY

Business/Policy/Reunion Suggestions:

President Jim Thomas

4418 Anchor Mill
Bellevue, NE 68123-1168
E-mail: JThomas927@aol.com

Membership Dues/Changes of Address:

Treasurer Errol Hoberman

6441 Avenida De Galvez
Navarre, FL 32566
E-mail: SAC-EWO@mchsi.com

Newsletter Editor:

Secretary Max Moore

201 Basswood Court
Bellevue, NE 68005-2001
E-mail: MaxMoore55@aol.com

Association Historian:

Robb Hoover

13412 Tregaron Circle
Bellevue, NE 68123
E-mail: RobbHoover@aol.com

Association Web Page Comments/Ideas:

Don Griffin

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

Jim Maloney

7908 Kona Circle
Papillion, NE 68046-5619
E-mail: jim@maloney.com

Other Members of the Board of Directors:

Vice President Ricky McMahon

Permanent Members: Sam Pizzo, Sparky Adams, Charlie Waters, Bill Ernst, (Hoover, Maloney, Hoberman, Moore). *Elected Members:* Joe Gyulavics, Fox Censullo, George Ross, Kevin Todd, Michael Cook, Dennis Haun, Pete Glenboski, Larry Utley. *Active Duty Members:* Colonel Don Kelly and LtCol Ken Bauer.

* * * * *

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

The Association, as of 27 October 2006, had a checking account balance \$4,839.00 after the reunion expenses. Another \$3,473.41 is in a saving account, and \$10,137.33 is held in a CD.

The Association remains solvent.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of 17 October 2006, the Association had **1,108** members in good standing, of which 155 are widows and 34 associated members.

The Association still claims members in all **50 states**, plus Guam, Puerto Rico and APOs in Europe and the Pacific.

The number of **active duty members** continues to rise as interest has picked up due to the Association's exposure to the Wing and at Offutt, the solid support of the **Wing** senior staff, and as current members continue to recruit.

2006 on your address label means that your dues expire at the end of this year, and you are

still a Regular Member (RM) in good standing. Any other year indicates when your dues will expire, or have already expired.

Dues are payable each January, so if you haven't already done so, renew now.

If your dues expire in 2006, \$10.00 is due for 2007; \$25 will update your membership for three years beyond what now shows as an expiration year.

* * * * *

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 Association-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

New members receive the Association's dual-shield lapel pin and the 55thSRW Cold War Memorial coin from 2003 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.*).

Jim Thomas and Max Moore have pins and coins, as well, so members in the Omaha area can get the pins from them for \$3.00 without the postage. Extra memorial coins are \$5.00 each.

* * * * *

Over the years, it has not been unusual for members to include modest amounts of money over and above that required for dues to add to the treasury, and every dollar is much appreciated.

Others may wish to contribute to the Association with an outright donation, or by an endowment or bequest. Something to consider.

* * * * *

If you don't receive e-mails from the Association, it likely is because your e-address is not listed or outdated. To get on the members only e-mail roster, or correct/update any changes in recent months, send your current e-mail address to Errol Hoberman at SAC-EWO@mchsi.com.

* * * * *

FUTURE MEMORIAL BRICK ORDERS

Dear Fellow Members,

There may still be some 55th veterans or family members who want to order bricks for the 55th SRW Cold War Memorial patio in the National Museum of the US Air Force Museum Memorial Gardens, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, dedicated in September 2003. Over 600 of the bricks have been engraved-to-order thus far.

If you wish to buy a brick, or know of anyone who wants one, **it can still be accomplished.** It is necessary to compile fifteen or more orders for the contractor to engrave the additional personalized bricks on-site.

The cost is \$65 for **each brick**, and the engraving is **limited** to three lines, 13 characters per line including spaces, dashes and slashes (**No periods, commas, colons or semicolons or quotation marks**). Send us \$100 and you will pay for a **brick** and get **three years' association membership dues extension**. Add \$65 for any additional bricks.

This is the time to get a brick for your grandchildren and great grandchildren to reflect upon in the years to come.

Make your checks to **55SRW Association**, tell us **exactly how you want your brick(s) to read**, and mail to Bill Ernst, 410 Greenbriar Court, Bellevue, NE, 68005.

VO, Bill

* * * * *

TALES OF THE 55TH

The eighth edition of the "*Tales of the 55th*" will be held Friday, 30 March 2007, at the Patriot (Offutt) Club beginning with a social hour at 1600.

Opening the 55th Wing Birthday Ball weekend, speakers from various eras of 55th heritage tell their tales. It is one more opportunity for 55th 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.

Last year's event had the largest attendance ever with a large cadre of active duty troops there.

Originally created and coordinated by Robb Hoover, Jim Thomas took over the duties of orchestrating and emceeding the affair for 2006. The 2007 program speakers are being lined up.

The event will again be tri-sponsored by the **55th SRW Association**, the Strategic Roost, Association of Old Crows; and the local Curtis E. LeMay Chapter, Order of Daedalions.

* * * * *

55TH WING BIRTHDAY BALL 2007

The **29th Birthday Ball** will be held on **Saturday, 31 March, 2007**, at the Qwest Center Omaha. The theme will be “*Safeguarding Our Nation.....Assuring Freedom.*”

The planning committee is ably headed by Captain **Samantha Sheldon** of the **55th Communication Group**. Moore and Ernst represent the Association on the committee.

Mark your social calendars with the date and plan now to attend the largest formal social event the **55th Wing** holds each year.

There is a tie-in with the Hilton Hotel just across the street from the Qwest. For reservations for the 30-31 March 2007, call 402-998-3400, mention the **55th Wing** Birthday Ball to get the government rate of \$119.

See Nebraska in springtime, tra la.

* * * * *

THE 55TH SRW ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The **55th SRW Association Annual Award for Excellence** is presented to that individual, crew, group, or organization that best exemplifies the basic tenants of the **55th SRW Association**. The presentation is made at the annual **55th Wing** Birthday Ball.

Past award recipients are McMahan, 338th Combat Training Squadron commander, for 2000; and **MSgt Steven** and **MSgt Lisa Haggett**, **55th Wing** Command Section, 2001; **LtCol Kurt Kramer**, 38th RS commander, 2002, and **LtCol Glen Gulleckson**, 343rd RS commander, 2003; **TSgt Terry Hunt**, Medical Support Group, 2004;

MSgt Norman de la Vega, 55th Security Forces Sqd in 2005.

The permanent trophy resides in the lobby of the Gen Russell Dougherty Conference Center at Offutt. Many significant events are held there each year, including the annual ACC Commanders and Chiefs Conferences, so it is in a high visibility area.

* * * * *

USAF MEMORIAL DEDICATION



The **United States Air Force** Memorial was dedicated by **President George W. Bush**, 14 October 2006 on a hill overlooking Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. **Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld** and **Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne** were also among a distinguished array of speakers.

The design was inspired by the contrails made during the bomb burst maneuver of the USAF Aerial Demonstration Team, “The Thunderbirds”. That team made a dramatic over flight and performed the bomb burst to conclude the event.

There also was a flyby parade of aviation history from a Wright Flyer replica, WWI bi-planes, and in chronological order, historical aircraft up to today’s modern fighters and stealth bomber.

The memorial includes two inscribed granite walls, an 8 ft. bronze statue of an “honor guard” of four figures, and a glass wall engraved with a portrayal of the “missing man formation”.

The project was fifteen years in the planning, and paid for with a grass roots funding drive that

began about five years ago. **The Association** contributed \$1000 to that effort, and no doubt, many members made individual donations to help the memorial come to fruition.

The **Air Force** is the last service to get its memorial.

* * * * *

T A P S



Warren Alysworth, 86, died 12 October 2006, Empire, MI. Wife **Aleta (Deet)**. Warren was WWII pilot who flew 36 B-29 combat missions in the Pacific. He held many positions during his tenure in the **55th SRW** at Forbes AFB, KS, including commanding the 338th and 38th SRSs. He also was squadron ops officer of the 82rd at Kadena in the late 1960s; then served in the Strat Recon Center (SRC) at SAC HQ.

Charleen Barrett, 83, 28 September 2006, Independence, OR; wife of **Burton** for over 65 years. Burt is WWII veteran pilot and long time **55th**, and is a member of the 55th Hall of Fame.

George L. Danforth, Jr, 86, died 9 August 2006, San Antonio, TX. Wife **Katherine**. A West Point graduate and WWII veteran with 69 bomber missions, including on D-Day. Serving 12 years in the **55th SRW**, he was a former commander of the 338th and 343rd SRSs at Forbes.

Patricia Gatewood, 9 August 2006, Ft Walton Beach, FL. She was the wife of **Jack**, a former ops officer and commander of the 38SRS, which flew the airborne command post missions under the **55th** after its move to Offutt AFB, NE, in the late 1960s. He also served a tour as commander, Det 1, 6SW at Shemya AB, AK.

Rita K. Hanson, 87, 10 August 2006, Largo, FL; widow of the late **George**. George and Rita chaired *Reunion One* at El Paso, TX, in 1970.

Grover G. Heiman, 86, 12 October 2006, Washington, DC. A WWII veteran, Grover was a radar nav in the **55th** on 'Pop' Kaden's RB-50 crew for five years in the late 1950s. He later served in the Pentagon until his retirement.

Bruce Heimark, 71, 4 August 2006, Omaha, NE. Wife **Nancy**. Bruce served in the **55th** at Offutt as an RC navigator and intel staff officer circa 1970s. He was a Viet Nam veteran with 70 combat missions.

David Johnson, 66, 10 August 2006, Navarre, FL. Wife **Sally**. A veteran EWO in RBs at Forbes, and RCs at Offutt, Dave was in the programs that preceded and became *Combat Sent*.

He also was a computer whiz whose invaluable assistance and contributions to the Association web page were essential to its evolution and quality.

Verna Keener, 90, 30 June 2006; New Cumberland, PA. She was the widow of **Elmer**, a radio operator and navigator on **55th** RB-50s stationed at Ramey AFB, PR, Barksdale AFB, LA, and Forbes in the mid- to late 1950s.

Harry C. (Cliff) Newman, May 2003, Palm Bay, FL. A navigator on RB-50s in the 343rd at Ramey in 1953, he later served in the SRC at SAC HQ, and at Beale AFB, CA, in the SR-71 program.

Judy Newman, 24 February 2005, Palm Bay, FL; widow of **Harry**.

William T. (Tom) Nuzum, 27 August 2004, Bellevue, NE. Wife: **Marilyn**. Tom served in the **55th** as a navigator in the 2ACCS flying the EC-135 Looking Glass missions at Offutt.

Horace B. "Bo" Reeves, 25 August 2006. Wife **Yvonne**. Bo was commander at Eielson AFB, AK, from 1962-65 with the original "Office Boy" RC-135D program.

Robert S. Rich, 89, 12 October 2006, Topeka, KS. Wife **Lydia**. An RB-29 and RB-47 pilot in the earliest days of the **55th SRW** at Ramey and Forbes, Bob was in the original group of inductees into the **55th** Hall of Fame.

Barbara Schapker, 74, 9 August 2006, Papillion, NE. Wife of **Fred**, a long time **55th** EWO in RBs at Forbes and RCs at Kadena and Offutt from the 1960s thru the 1980s.

Harold "Hal" Simpson, 19 July 2006, Yuba City, CA. Wife **Kimi**. Hal was an RB-47 pilot with the **55th** at Forbes and Offutt circa 1959 to 1968.

* * * * *

TAPS notification of Association members, spouses, friends and associates taking the Big PCS should be sent to Jim Thomas and Max Moore (*see DIRECTORY, page 8 for contact info*).

Please include next of kin and an address and to whom the Association condolence card may be sent; date of demise, age, crew or duty position; bases and approximate years with 55th; and any other pertinent information.

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

* * * * *

LETTERS AND STUFF



* * * * *

WANTED: 343rd Crew Roster from 1972 (preferably June). Needed for historical research. Please check your files. Contact Robb Hoover, e-mail: RobbHoover@aol.com, or Ph: 402-292-6616.

* * * * *

Errol and Max:

I really appreciate the mailed hard copy version (*of the newsletter*), as it gives me more time to read it at my leisure. Thank you for your work in making it very interesting.

Sorry we won't make it to the Omaha reunion, but it is the same time as my old KC-97 outfit (11th ARS) is having our 50th anniversary in Abilene, TX, and I'm helping get that one organized.

Best wishes to all,

Charlie Caldwell, Abilene, TX

(E-mail 8 July 2006)

* * * * *

Dear Bill (*Ernst*):

Please know that I am gratified and proud to receive the (*55th Cold War*) Memorial coin. I will always honor and cherish it.

My dear **Jack** was so very proud to serve with the *55th*.

Gratefully,

Mary Ellen Resen, El Paso, TX.

(From a note, June 2006)

* * * * *

To the reunion organizers and helpers:

Thanks for a great reunion, and all your efforts.

(*We*) enjoyed meeting so many wonderful cohorts! Your committee did such a wonderful job. Thanks again, and express my sincere gratitude to all. Hope to see you at the next reunion, or whenever.

Ray and Margaret Farris

(From an e-mail 28 Sep 06. Note: Ray was a member of the 55th in the 1960s at Forbes, is a new Association member, and this was their first reunion.)

* * * * *

Gents:

While the memory bank still functions, just wish to thank you for a great reunion. Well done. I know there were a lot of helpers, and they too deserve sincere and hardy kudos.

As the insurance company saying goes, "you're in good hands"; well that certainly applies to our Association and the efforts of the Omaha domiciled members of the Board of Directors.

Once again thank you, and a special thanks for the honor you afforded this old nav.

Videmus Omnia, Sam Pizzo, Mandeville, LA

(Email sent to Omaha Reunion committee, 28 Sep 2006.)

* * * * *

A report to the Association:

Half-way around the world in the early morning hours, 17 September, 1952, the RB50 lifted off. Thule AB would have disappeared as they climbed if it hadn't been all but invisible when the brakes were released.

Aircraft commander, Lt. Col. Roy E Kaden's, account of the mission is mesmerizing. Suffice it for me to say---read it if you have the chance.

As a representative of the **55th SRW Association**, I was honored to be present at McConnell AFB, KS, as the last DFC for the heroics of that day was awarded posthumously to camera operator, **TSgt Roscoe C. Lindsay**. He died in 1958 at the age of 38.

Fate takes odd turns, Sergeant Lindsay's widow, **Loy**, celebrated her 80th birthday yesterday. Fate fittingly intervened twice, the presenter of the DFC, **Colonel T. Harrison Smith, Jr.**, is a former

member of the 55th, serving when then-Col **Larry Mitchell** was wing commander.

I am proud to have served in the same organization as Sergeant Lindsay. I am sure all of us are. Without their service, and all the members of the 55th before us, we very well might not be.

Lee Brown, Kingman, KS 16 Sept 2006

* * * * *

SAC MEMORIAL PROJECT



Design depiction by Dodds Monuments of Xenia, OH

The SAC Memorial project is an effort by SAC veterans and former SAC component organizations to erect a monument at the National Museum of the US Air Force Memorial Gardens near Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

Initial planning and design of the ten feet tall, six feet wide monument, are completed. The fund raising stage is ongoing and the target is \$25,000. The aim is for construction to be finished in time for official dedication set at **2 May 2008**.

55thSRW Association members who wish to contribute to the fund drive should make checks payable to "**Dodds Monuments – SAC Memorial Project**", and mail to "SAC Memorial Project", c/o **Ron Resh**, Coordinator, 10825 Bucknell Dr, Silver Spring, MD, 20902-4325.

For more direct information, you can e-mail Ron at: rreshlegis@aol.com

* * * * *

Editor's plea: If any members wish to contribute letters, stories, photos and articles, please send them to me. If events occur in your area that you think would be of interest to **the general readership**, mail or e-mail the pertinent details, and include the

names of those Association members who attend. **Names are news.** The only way to broaden our coverage is to get input from 'out there'.

Thanks, and Videmus Omnia, Max
(Contributions may be edited for content, readability, and spacing.)

* * * * *

A CHALLENGE TO ALL RC-135 CREWMEMBERS

Hugh Hunton, LtCol USAF (Ret)
Keithville, LA

After attending two great **55 SRW** reunions (Dayton and Omaha), and talking to fellow recon troops, it appears that I have flown operationally (as a navigator) in more models of RCs than any other RC crewmember.

My challenge is this: "*Has any one else flown operationally in eight or more different models the RC-135?*" My sorties were in the RC-135C, D, E, M, S, T, U and V. Remember, **OPERATIONALLY**, is the key word.

As a memory jogger, the primary missions of the C, D, M and V models were communications intelligence (COMINT); the E was radar intelligence (RADINT). The S was photo intelligence (FODINT); the U electric intelligence (ELINT); and the T was nuclear intelligence (NUDINT).

Into the Recon Business

On July 1st, 1966, I reported in to **Lt Col Mike Bowen**, commander of project "Office Boy" at Eielson AFB, AK. Confusion was rampant as that was the day of the "Falling Leaves" party. Eighteen out of thirty-six crew members lost their spot promotions via SAC edict!

The primary aircraft of the project was the RC-135D, a "water wagon" tanker that was hurriedly modified for strategic reconnaissance and put into service while waiting for the RC-135Cs to be modified at the Martin plant in Baltimore, MD, for delivery to the **55th SRW** at Offutt.

The project also had another mission, flying the RC-135S (*Wanda Bell*) out of the garden spot of the Aleutian Islands, Shemya AFS. Also, a C-135 was assigned to the unit for a short-time flying out of Shemya evaluating a mission to be a sister ship to

the S as a RADINT platform. After the test program, the airplane was returned to E Systems at Greenville, TX, to complete modifications, then returning to Eielson a year later as the RC-135E (*Lisa Ann*).

There were six front end crews flying the D and the S. I flew mostly polar D missions and a few S missions out of Shemya. My crew was selected to go to E Systems and do the acceptance testing of the newly modified E platform. Upon returning to Eielson with the E-model, the unit was upgraded to a squadron (24th SRS, under the 6th Strat Wg), and two more crews were added to cover the extra workload of the E. The mission name for the S was changed from *Wanda Bell* to *Rivet Ball* and the E was changed from *Lisa Ann* to *Rivet Amber*.

Every Recon Guy Gets to Offutt

My next assignment was to Offutt. The "C" model was now operational, and, since I had "polar navigator" stamped on my forehead, the first few months were over the top reconnaissance sorties. Some time during that spring, the 38th NUDINT mission was transferred to the 343SRS and two crews (mine included) were selected to go TDY to Hickam AFB, HI, to observe French nuclear testing while flying the RC-135T. This was a six week on, two week off project that lasted for three rotations in the summer of 1969. The French had 17 events that summer and we got them all!

In 1970, the first U-model arrived. At that time I was on **Dick Hedge's** crew and we did most of the acceptance tests out of Offutt flying along the Canadian/US border against known emitters. Later that year we deployed to Mildenhall AFB, UK, flying the first operational U missions.

Wonderful World of CEVG

After Offutt, I was off to Barksdale AFB, to be a member of the 1st Combat Evaluation Group (CEVG) for the next five years. At Barksdale, we evaluated the RC-135 units at Eielson, Kadena, and Offutt. Also, we were assigned to oversee the flight crew standardization of the U-2, the DC-130 reconnaissance drone program, CH-3 helicopter drone recovery program, all at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, and the SR-71 program at Beale AFB. A very interesting job, but that is another story.

In 1976, the 82 SRS at Kadena was disbanded. I was assigned to be the Chief of Reconnaissance Operations, 376 SW. This was a TDY OL with

three crews deployed from Offutt for six weeks at a time, rotating a crew and aircraft every two weeks. The M was, at first, the most deployed aircraft because the backenders were comfortable with the airplane as it was their platform when the squadron and mission were operational out of Kadena.

Eventually, the V started to show up on as regularly as the M, a very high time airframe, went into modification to become a V model. I flew as Mission Commander for many joint SR-71/RC-135/EP3 Orion missions on both the RC-135M and V models. The most notable joint missions occurred during and after the infamous Korean "Tree Chopping" incident.

Epilogue

I started my career navigating KC-97 tankers (Malmstrom AFB, MT), then KC-135 tankers (Barksdale AFB, LA), then off to reconnaissance (Eielson, Offutt, Barksdale and Kadena), and ended up back in KC-135 tankers (Barksdale AFB). While at Offutt, I Flew one "Looking Glass" sortie, and while in CEVG, I flew on the KC-135Q tanker during several SR-71 refueling missions.

I had one hell of a career, but my 13 years in strategic reconnaissance were the most cherished and rewarding.

(Note: A more expanded version of this article can be found on the Association web site's Memory Lane feature.)



PRO-NUN-SEE-A-SHUN

During a social encounter a few years ago, 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 *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth W* motto is thus: **Wi - dAy - moose Omnia**

He insisted the 'v' be pronounced as a 'w', and with emphasis on the mid-syllable and a hard A.

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

(Yes, this is a repeat item from newsletters past for the edification of those who are new to the Association and/or 55th Wing. Max)



ANOTHER TALE OF THE BELL AND HOOVER EDIFICE

Immediately after the 55th Wing Birthday Ball, near midnight on 1 April last, nefarious villains bellnapped the 55th ceremonial bell and spirited it away for purposes unknown until the summer.



*Bellnappers revealed:
Capts Joey Lewis and Zach Stevens*

On 21 July at the 343rd RS crew lounge in Bldg 497 at Offutt, the bell was returned at a ceremony which coincided with the naming of the area as “Hoover Lounge”.



*Himself and 343rd CC LtCol Brian
“Tinger”Tingstad.*

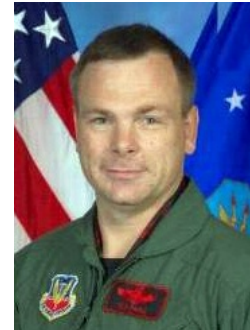
Several members of the Omaha caucus of the Assn were invited to witness both events. Max Moore remarked that buildings and such are usually named after the dead and the near-dead, so with Robb Hoover now having two rooms in his honor, that he should have his affairs in order just in case.

(Note: An expanded version with more pictures is on the Assn web site.)

* * * * *

CHANGE OF COMMAND

LtCol Ken Bauer, an active duty member of the Association’s Board of Directors, assumed command of the 45th Recon Sqd on 21 July 2006. His previous position was Director of Staff at 55thWing HQ.



The 45th was activated at Offutt AFB on 1 July 1994 and assumed the missions of the deactivated 24th RS. Members of the squadron crew and support RC/OC/WC/TC-135 aircraft flying worldwide reconnaissance and treaty verification missions.

* * * * *

ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

The Association polo shirt inventory took a large hit at the Omaha reunion. The large size sold out and all other sizes sold well. A new batch was ordered, so there are plenty on hand should you desire to purchase same. **Be sure to state the size you want.** (S, M, L, XL, XXL, and we can get 3XL if the need arises; and yes we have sold that size in the past.)

Give a big hint to the family and mayhap some generous loved one will give you one for Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan or Kwanzaa, whatever you have going; birthday, anniversary even.

Cost is \$25 per shirt.

The dual shield logo is on the left front, white with red collar and sleeve 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.



The golf/ballcaps also sold out at the reunion. Another dozen is on order. They are royal blue with the dual shield logo on the front, and an adjustable back strap. **They go for \$7 each.**

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

Anyone desiring to purchase these items can send an e-mail: **Larry Utley** at LarryU1001@aol.com; phone 402-592-6627; or write 1001 Michelle Parkway, Papillion, NE 68046.

There are charges for priority postage to be added to the individual item costs: \$5 for a shirt only; \$7 for two shirts; \$6 if both a shirt and cap are ordered; \$4 for a cap only.

Checks for the full amount of your order should be made to the 55th SRW Association, or to Larry Utley. Either way, the bucks end up in the Association treasury.

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

Great gifts! The shirts and caps are unisex, so get one for your spouse, significant other, or other family members. The family pet, even.



THE ASSOCIATION TIE

Also sold out at the Omaha reunion. New ones on order.

The ‘regimental’ tie is a 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.

It can also be seen in color on the web site.

The price is \$20 each and includes postage.

Order now! This item is a must have for reunion banquets and other appropriate events.

To acquire the tie, contact Jim Thomas at JThomas927@aol.com, or write him at 4418 Anchor Mill, Bellevue, NE 68005-1168. **Make checks payable to the 55SRW Association.**



55TH FASHION PINS



(Shown as near actual size)

As a direct result of newsletter notices, the above pins have sold at a steady pace to **55SRWA** members all over the country. They sold rapidly during the Omaha Association reunion, and are seen on ladies of the **55th Wing** at official and social functions in and around Offutt.

You will want to acquire one for that special lady in your life to wear on any appropriate occasion. Gents, it makes a great holiday stocking stuffer, birthday or anniversary accessory gift.

The Association does **not** sell these pins and receives **no** money. But, as a service for those who wish to possess same: **Erwin’s Jewelers, Frank Kumor**, proprietor, in Olde Town Bellevue, offers

them and **you can purchase directly from the store.** Frank is a solid supporter of the Association.

Send requests to 223 W. Mission Ave, Bellevue, NE; or call: (402) 291-2454, or fax to (402) 293-5873 to order the pins. **Costs are \$9 for the pin and \$3 for shipping.**

* * * * *

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

The Association web site is an integral and vital part of the Association's line of communications and information. You are urged to check it out periodically to see updated data.

Everything you want to know about the Association is there: **constitution, bylaws;** Board members and bios; membership and change of address forms, library, picture gallery, a new bulletin board, and links to other associated and interesting sites.

There is also an archive of many past newsletters for review and research. As examples: the October 2005 issue has an article on the **history of the Association;** the April 2003 and February 2004 issues have all one would want to know about the **55th SRWA's Cold War Memorial** at the National Museum of the US Air Force in Dayton, OH; and the January 2001 issue tells the **Hall of Fame** story.

Timely info and updates on the next reunion, other events and important bulletins on any projects in progress are posted. Also, there is e-mail traffic on subjects of interest to members.

Webmeister Don Griffin maintains and regularly updates the site so as not to let it get stale. His team now consists of Jim Maloney, **George Back** and **Gary Percival.**

They are always looking for new and fresh ideas. The most recent of which is the addition of the Memory Lane feature whereon members can relate their various memoirs, or "and there I was" stories.

Inputs from members are encouraged and welcome. Send them pictures, war stories, anything pertinent to 55th history you want to share with the Association.

* * * * *

MEMORY LANE FEATURE

Webmaster Griffin has created a new feature on the Association web page, labeled *Memory Lane*, which publishes factual, non-fiction stories on **55SRW**, or **55th Wing**, individuals, crews or events. Browse it and you will be pleased at what you view. (*It is the brainchild of Sam Pizzo.*)

You are invited, and welcomed to submit your inputs to Don. If you need some help in getting started, feel free to contact Sam at 985-845-7445, or e-mail at sampizzo@webtv.net.

Some day we may incorporate this feature in issues of the newsletter, or some other publication form.

Take advantage of this opportunity. This is your chance to let the Association membership learn of your experiences. VO, *Sam*

* * * * *

E – NEWSLETTER

Association members in good standing who so desire can receive the newsletter via electronic transmission. **To get on the members only e-mail roster, send current e-mail address to SAC-EWO@mchsi.com.** Or go to: www.55srwa.org for full instructions on how to read and/or download the e-newsletter. **There is an archive of past issues there, as well.**

* * * * *

55TH WING HALL OF FAME

In 2003 the **55thSRW Association** assumed the administrative lead for the selection process of the **55th Wing** Hall of Fame. Nominees are solicited each year for induction. Historically, the inductees are announced annually at the **55th Wing** Birthday Ball.

That process will continue this year with Association presidential appointed screening and selection committees to complete the process to select the 2007 inductees. Detailed information on the program follows:

* * * * *

HALL OF FAME RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Administered by

55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association

This document establishes the 55th Wing Hall of Fame (HoF) recognition program as administered by the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association (55thSRWA or Association). It defines 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 55th 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 (*when the Ball is in Jan/Feb. Dates are adjusted if Ball is held later*). 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 55th Wing, the newest inductees selected for the HoF may be announced during the annual 55th Wing Birthday Ball or other venue as determined by the 55thSRWA in coordination with the 55th Wing.

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

1. The HoF Screening Committee will receive and review all nomination packages and forward 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: 55th Pursuit Group, 55th Fighter Group, 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing and/or 55th Wing. These units are herein referred to collectively as the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*. The HoF Screening Committee will be chaired by an Omaha area-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 55thSRWA

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 area-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.

James W. Thomas

President, 55th SRW Association

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Nomination packages will be comprised of the following items:

1. Nominator:

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 *Fightin' 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 nominations to the Awards Chairman, Jim Thomas. Nominations packages with supporting documentation should be sent to him at 4418 Anchor Mill Dr., Bellevue, NE, 68123-1168.

8. Nominations may also be submitted JThomas927@aol.com.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The **55 SRWA** administers this program.

Nomination schedule:

NLT 15 December 2006 - All nomination packages are due to the Awards Chairman.

NLT 1 March 2007 – The Selection Committee meets.

The Chairman and Members of the Screening Committee - Screens all nominations for eligibility.

The Selection Committee - Makes final selection of HoF Inductees.

The **55th SRWA** President:

a. Prepares “Call for Nominations” memo for inclusion in the **55thSRWA** newsletter and web site

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 **55th Wing** Commander of the inductees.

d. In consonance with the **55th Wing** POC (normally Protocol and Wing Birthday Ball Project Officer), coordinates presentations at the annual **Wing** Birthday Ball, or other event or venue as coordinated between the **55th Wing** and the **55th SRWA**.

* * * * *

REUNIONS

* * * * *

BIG SAFARI

25-29 APRIL 2007 - DALLAS, TX

Embassy Suites Outdoors World is HQ for the event, which includes a trip to Greenville for an L-3 Communications open house. Call now at 1-972-

724-2600 for hotel reservations, and ask for the Big Safari special group rate.

John Reynolds is the contact for more information: P.O. Box 6956, CBN 019, Greenville, TX, 75403-6056; ph: 903-883-2080.

* * * * *

SAC INTEL REUNION

17-19 MAY 2007 - OMAHA, NE

Former members of the SAC IN, 544th IW and friends will hold a symposium and other presentations at this gathering.

The Embassy Suites Old Market/Downtown is the registration center, but main events will be at Offutt’s Dougherty Conference Center and in Bellevue’s Lied Activity Center.

The keynote speaker at the banquet will be **General Michael Hayden**, Director of the CIA.

Bill Doyle is Chairman. He can be reached at yeared@cox.net. For complete details and schedule go to web site SACINTELreunion.com.

* * * * *

COMBAT APPLE OPERATIONS

11-12 SEPT 2007- COUNCIL BLUFF, IA

The COMBAT APPLE Reunion will be at the Holiday Inn & Suites (adjoining Ameristar Hotel & Casino) Council Bluffs, IA. This will be a joint 82nd SRS and 6990th Security Sqd event. The reunion is planned on the precise dates of the 40th anniversary of the first Combat Apple mission flown by crew S-01 on RC-135M, tail #24135.



Rick Francona, current NBC military analyst and a former Vietnamese linguist on Combat Apple ('70-'71), will be the banquet speaker.

Contact Robb Hoover, via e-mail: RobbHoover@aol.com, or Ph: 402-292-6616; or **Tom Tennant**, e-mail: AMStht@aol.com, or Ph: 402-291-3045) for details.

* * * * *

SAC REUNION
30 APR - 4 MAY 2008
FAIRBORN, OH

The Holiday Inn Conference Center in Fairborn, OH, is the staging area for this reunion.

The main event is the dedication of the SAC Memorial in the Memorial Gardens of the National Museum of the **Air Force** on Friday, 2 May. There will be an "under the Wings" banquet in the Museum on Saturday, 3 May.

Ron Resh is a contact for the reunion. Address: 10825 Bucknell Dr, Silver Spring, MD, 20902-4325; e-mail: rreshlegis@aol.com



OMAHA REUNION ATTENDEES



These folks were there, and you weren't:

Lewis Adams	Opal Adams
Sparky Adams	Connie Adams
Bennie Allen	
Jim Arbuckle	Pam Arbuckle
George Back	Gerrie Back
Burton Barrett	
George Barton	Goldie Barton
Moe Beauvais	Chris Beauvais
Bill Bima	Rose Bima
Harris R. Blount	Norma Kussmann
George Boothby	Diana Boothby
Andy Borden	Sue Borden
Ted Boydston	Marlene Boydston
Jim Brookie	Marilyn Brookie
Dick Brown	Terri Brown
Paul Brown	Maxine Brown
LtCol Al Brunner	
Dave Burroughs	Colleen Burroughs
Jim Caldwell	Nancy Caldwell
Terry Calwell	Linda Calwell

Joe Cantergiani	Barbara Carey
John Carey	Paul Caselton
Jean Caselton	James Caselton
Sue Caselton	Teresa Censullo
Fox Censullo	Thelma Clark
Rich Clark	Ralph Cofield
Joan Cofield	Tina Cook
Michael Cook	Beverly Cook
Bill Cook	Mary Furrie
Bob Cooper	
Paul Corbin	Linda Crump
Herschel Crump	Linda Curzon
Daniel Curzon	
Hanna Curzon	Mary Dant
Rick Dant	Mary Davis
Walt Davis	
Aneth De La Vega	Chris Didamo
Martha Didamo	
Larry D'Orvilliers	Reese Drost
Johnny Drost	Sandra Dubuy
Hank Dubuy	Ann Duer
Glen Duer	Carole Ebejay
Craig Ebejay	Ann McFate
Doug Eddins	Mary Eisenberg
Lou Eisenberg	Nancy Eldridge
Golda Eldridge	
Bob Elsasser	Judy English
Bob English	
Bill Ernst	Monica Everling
Tom Everling	Elizabeth T. Fair
Roy V. Fair	Margaret Farris
M. Ray Farris	Jane Fortin
Paul Fortin	Patricia Freeman
John Freeman	Judy Apel
Don French	Mrs. Fruchtnicht
James Fruchtnicht	Francine Garrity
Tom Garrity	Margareta Giambri
Phil Giambri	
Fred Glass	Margot Glenboski
Pete Glenboski	Pat Goeden
Sam Goeden	Marsha Griffin
Don Griffin	Barbara Gurney
Don Gurney	Dorothy Gyulavics
Joseph Gyulavics	Margaret Ham
Howard Ham	Evelyn Harriman
Richard Harriman	Cheryl Haun
Denny Haun	Pat Hensley
Dale Hensley	LeWanda Hicks
Frank Hicks	
Clark Hinkel	Sue Hoberman
Errol Hoberman	
Lee Holbert	Shirley Hoover
Robb Hoover	Mary Howe
Arlen Howe	

Hugh Hunton	Clara Hunton	Tom Reed	Celia Reed
Hutch Hutchinson	Jan Hutchinson	Don Remaklus	
George Jacobi		Hank Rieden	JoAnn Rieden
John Johnson	Toni Johnson	Bob Robeson	Brenda Robeson
John Johnson	Dee Johnson	George Ross	Betty Ross
Leo Jostad	Clairen Jostad	Jim Ruane	Barb Ruane
Al Kamback		Glen Ruid	Kay Ruid
Col Don Kelly	Melinda Kelly	Bobby Russell	Duveen Russell
Ham Kennedy	Pat Kennedy	Erma Rust	Dian Kress
Ron Knecht	Donna Knecht	Don Ryan	Marjorie (Marge)
Bob Knightly	Reva Knightly	Roland Saenz	Kathy Saenz
Larry La Flair		Fred Schapker	
Cliff Lambert	Kay Lambert	John Schweizer	Peggy Schweizer
Loose Lane	Cynthia Lane	Duaine Schwieso	Mary Schwieso
Gene Lawrence	Doris Lawrence	Scotty Scott	Janey Scott
Dave Leeman	Jan Leeman	Dorene Sherman	
Bill Lewis	Carol Lewis	Bucky Shiers	
Bill Lewis	Lou Lewis	Bill Sibley	Marilyn Sibley
Charlie Liller	Sara Liller	Bill Simon	
James Lolli	Mary Lolli	Rudy Smart	Terry Smart
Stephen Lynch	Mary McQuinn	Gary Smith	Patty Smith
Jim Maloney	Peg Maloney	Col Phil Smith	Julie Smith
Junie Malot	Ann Boland	Russell Snearly	
Frank Manley	Joan Manley	Buck Staples	Donna Staples
John Mark	Sheila Braceken	Ted Stern	Audrey J Stern
Col Bo Marlin	Ann Marlin	Steve Stevens	Suzanne Stevens
Dan Martin		Ken Stoop	Myrtle Stoop
Mike McFarland	Pearl McFarland	Gordon Storm	Marietta Walmsley
Ricky McMahan	Cary McMahan	Tom Storm	Diane Storm
George Miller		Aristeo Sul Jr.	Virginia E. Sul
Robert Miller	Glenda Miller	James Taylor	Marion Taylor
Max Moore	Carol Moore	Guido Tesi	Margaret Tesi
Mike Morris		Wes Thibodeaux	Anna Thibodeaux
Bud Morss		Clyde Thomas	Barbara Thomas
George Murphy	Marie Murphy	Donald Thomas	Barbara Thomas
Terry Murphy	Kathy Murphy	Jim Thomas	Sharon Thomas
Sylvia Navarro	Lisa Popper	Rick Thompson	Jacque Thompson
Jim Nelson	Ruth Nelson	Kevin Todd	Janice Todd
Jim Nelson	Sharon Nelson	John Tresemer	Ruth Tresemer
John Olivo	Chris Olivo	John Trumble	
Roy Owens	Charlene Owens	Dick Tucker	Judy Tucker
Elvio Palmieri	Darlene Palmieri	Harry Tull	
Loren Pancoast	Sue Pancoast	Regis Urschler	Jo Hedge
Garry Percival		Larry Utley	
Bob Peterson	Betty Peterson	Fred Weil	Vicki Weil
Col Curtiss Petrek		Ben White	Betty White
Sam Pizzo	Mary Pizzo	Herb Williams	Barbara Williams
Eliot Potter	Treva Potter	Ned Wilson	Mary Wilson
Sandy Andris	Duane Andris	Neil Witworth	Dee Witworth
Pat Prislusky	Tom Prislusky	Dave Wolfe	Irene Wolfe
Joe Racine	Mary Racine	Larry Wolfe	Susan Wolfe
Chip Rasmusson	SharonRasmusson	Nick Yanuzzi	Georgina Yanuzzi
Dick Ray	Chris Anderson		



As an extra added surprise event, compliments of the hotel, there was a no-notice fire drill. This smiling group enjoyed a respite from the hospitality room: Rassmusson, Scotts, Riedens, Giambri and Smarts, et al.



55th WING BBQ ATTENDEES

BrigGen Jonathan and Kelly George
 Major Dave Hales Lt Ciara Shearin
 Capt Glenn and Meaghan Weaver
 Lt Jason and Jaclyn Waldow
 LtCol Christina and Rod Stone
 SSgt Quentin McCool A1C Jonathan Collins
 LtCol John and Diane Rauch
 Major Benjamin and Katina Ungerman
 LtCol James and Diana Dawkins
 A1C Timothy Garinger A1C Adam Renwick
 1Lt Justin Settles and Susan
 1Lt Stephen and Jo Dawn Brown
 Major Tom and Ashley Finneman
 TSgt Stacey and Tom Davis
 SMSgt William and Samantha Ford
 1Lt Wayne and Consuelo Straw
 2Lt Sanam Uadri 1Lt Adam Franks
 1Lt Jason Netz 1Lt Richard Powers
 1Lt Eugene Han 1Lt Timothy Strotkamp
 1Lt and Mrs Andrew Townsend
 1Lt Brian Fricke 1Lt Timothy Groff
 LtCol Brian and Grace Tingstad
 Captain Joey and Becky Laws
 Captain Darius and Kelly Burden
 Capt Steve Wilson Capt Matt Newell
 Lt Justin Gilbert Lt Steve Parra
 LtCol Ken Bauer Lt Col Todd Phipps
 Maj Bill Sargeant Capt Kevin Kretz
 Captain and Mrs. John Schmidtke
 1Lt Travis Degan 1Lt Wes Kramer
 1Lt Casey and Sara Huston
 LtCol Chad and Trish Stevenson
 Capt Stacey Staul 2Lt Anthony Gatzke
 Capt Nicole Kretz 2Lt Shawn Alcock

Capt Dawn Golding 2Lt Matt Zayatz
 2Lt Adam Frank 2Lt Drew Werner
 TSgt and Mrs Lon Brinkhous
 TSgt Frank Wells MSgt and Mrs Hoven
 MSgt and Mrs Rosendo Mireles
 Major and Mrs. Thomas Barnett
 LtCol Karen Bridges and Maj (Ret) Charlie Fallang
 Major and Mrs Brett Swigert
 MSgt and Mrs Bishop
 LtCol and Mrs Craig Castillo
 Colonel and Mrs Don Gleason
 LtCol and Mrs Barry Beard
 Major Nic Bernardi MSgt Barhosrt
 LtCol and Mrs Westermeyer
 LtCol and Mrs. Scott Vanderhoof
 Lt and Mrs Scott Mann
 MSgt Bob and Tamara Marshall

(Editor's caveat: names on double line entries, where done for spacing purposes, are not meant to imply any pairing, relationship, significant other or any of that stuff. However, I could be wrong.

Appreciation goes to Major Dave Hales, Wing Director of Staff, for providing the above listing. Also, it's his fault if there are any omissions, misspellings, or other boo-boos. Besides, he can't defend himself in this publication, so there. Max)



WHO SHOT WHAT

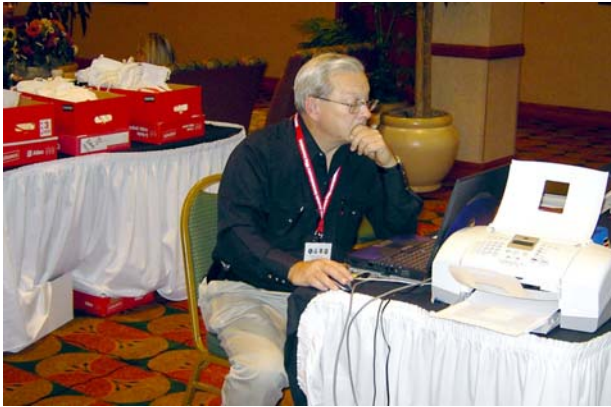


Omaha skyline from web site; Clip Art for various graphics; USAF Memorial Foundation for its rendition; Reunion photos courtesy of the [55th Wing](#) Public Affairs; Bill Simon III, Don Griffin, **Terry Murphy**, Jim Maloney, Jim Thomas, and Max Moore. Bell/Hoover Lounge and Hall of Fame, Moore; Bauer, official AF photo; Shirts/cap, Moore; tie, Pizzo; 55th pin, **Beth Kelley**.



(Graphic courtesy of Patricia "copper" Gros' wizardry.)

OMAHA REUNION ALBUM



Registration: Michael Cook and the calm before the storm.



Beth Groh, Embassy Catering, with Jim



Michael greets Harris Blount



*"You want WHAT?!"
Annebeth Black and Ham Kennedy
plot the Hospitality Suites*



It gets busy - Lobby Patrol



*"I only had tee martoonies, ossifer!!!"
Taylor, Pizzo, Griffin, Back, Percival*



*Its just lemonade.
Connie and Sparky Adams*



*Hospitality or Hospital?
Caldwells, Allen, Cofields, Racines, Howe*



John and Patsy Freeman – Don't Jump!!!



*Staples, Goeden, Reed, Taylor
“....and there I was....”*



*Burt Barrett holds forth
“Who are these people?”*



*A group of shirts.
H.Ham, Arbuckle, Schapker,
Morris, Rieden, Taylor*



Patty Smith, Kathy Murphy, Carol Moore



Atrium at the former SAC Museum



Pilots, please note: This is a bus.



*RC-135U, Combat Sent at Lincoln
This is an aircraft.*



Are we there yet?



Mahoney State Park Lodge



55th Wing HQ Bldg



Max shooting the bus, R: Lt Degan

THE BANQUET



Piping the guests in



Mary and Arlen Howe



Jo Hedge, Suzanne Stevens, Terry Smart



*Censullo, Rosses, Lynch, Kamback,
Hinkle, Larry Wolfe, Corbin*



Joe Cantergiani, John and Toni Johnson



The Noteables



*Scott, Morris, Kennedy, Murphy, Stevens.
Glasses charged (Nice ties, guys)*



*Francine Garrity, Maloney,
Kathy Murphy, Tom Garrity*

RANDOM STUFF



*Now that's Funny!!
Urschler, Jacque Thompson, Jo Hedge*



Saturday Breakfast Scene



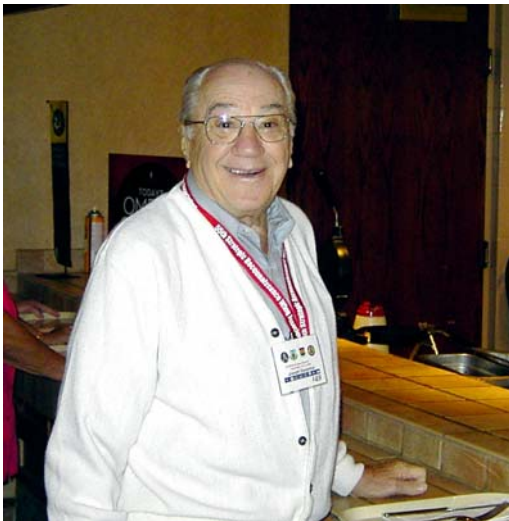
*Jean Caselton, Pizzo
Seated: Sparky*



Holbert, Simon, the Hobermans



Gary Percival, Our Hero!!!



Jumpin' Joe Gyulavics



*Fire?? What, me worry? Nah, I've got my
drinkie. Jack Schweitzer-Where's Peg?*



Saturday Breakfast Scene



*Olivo, Pearl McFarland, 'Lambo',
Chris Olivo, Maloney, Kay Lambert*



Your Board at Work



*343rd squadron commanders: Past, L to R: Rick
Thompson, Rudy Smart, Jim Ruane, Pete
Glenboski, and now, LtCol Brian Tingerstad*



*Another group enjoying the great outdoors
during the 'emergency' drill.*



*Rapt attention at the membership meeting.
L to R: Potter, Racine, Howe, Blount,
Don and Clyde Thomas.*

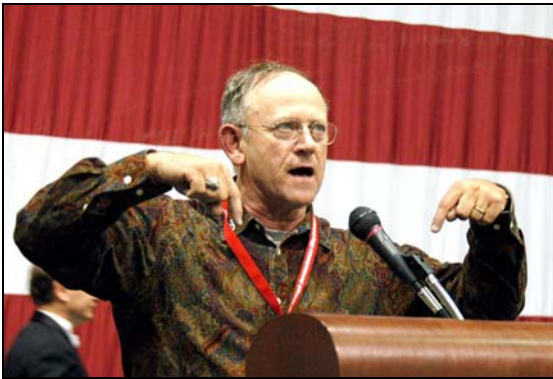


Why, yes, I navigate jets. Simon III



Registration never ends.

THE BARBEQUE AT OFFUTT



Right HERE! Right NOW!!



BGen George speaks.....



Gathering of the troops



.....the crowd harkens.



Paul Brown tells 'em like it was.....



The Avi8ors open the show.



THESE crewmembers are NOT dogs!



*Are we having fun yet?
Nelson, Caseltons, Goedens, Tull.*



*Why, yes we are!
Col Kelly, Curzons, Racine, Howes, Mel Kelly*



*Steve Stevens, Gary Smith,
Hugh Hunton, "Reggie" Stewart.*



*The Association recognizes the Navarro family.
Pres Thomas, Sylvia and Lisa*



Taylor, Caldwell, Cofield, Manley.



An emotional standing ovation for Navarros.



Faux Andrews Sisters belt it out.



*Mesdames Smith, Barton, Moore, Murphy,
Stevens, Dubuy and Hoover*



TSgt Brinkhous wins the RC picture

LEFTOVERS



"God Bless America...."



The Avi8ors s'mo



Nancy Kussman, Holbert, Blount



Carol Lewis, Mrytle & Ken Stoops, Hutchinson, Jim & Marilyn Brookie, Percival, Simon



The Noteables swingin'



Hoover gives Navarro tribute



A three striper caught between two generals. BG George, AIC Renwick, Lt Gen (Ret) Miller



Panoramic photo of Cold War Memorial dedication crowd posted at 55th Wing HQ

