

Videmus Omnia



55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

REUNION 14-18 MAY 2008

Vice President **Ricky McMahon**, chairman of the 2008 **Association's 26th** gathering, dubbed "*The National Treasures Reunion*", has contracted with the **Hilton Crystal City in Arlington, VA, to be the host site during the 14-18 May 2008 event.**

The hotel is at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport, and within minutes of central Washington, historic Alexandria, the Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery, and picturesque Georgetown, just to mention a few locales.



A special room rate for the reunion has been arranged is \$159, plus taxes (about \$180) per night. Twenty rooms have been blocked on

Tuesday, May 13, and between 100 and 150 rooms the remainder of the week/weekend.

For anyone interested in arriving in the DC area earlier than May 13, or staying later than Sunday, May 18, the special room rate may be extended depending upon individual requests and room availability. If the special rate is **not** available outside the contracted dates, be sure to tell them you are **active or retired military and/or seasoned citizen for better than the 'standard' rate.**

If all else fails, call Ricky for assistance and he may be able to work with the Hilton staff directly to meet your needs.

You can call now to book your rooms at Hilton central reservations, 1-800-HILTONS (445-8667). The code for the special rate is: 55th SRWA National Treasures Reunion.

To get the special rate room, reservations must be made before 12:00 AM 13 April 2008.

Repeat: should you have any problems getting the reservation or the special rate, contact Ricky at his home number, 1-703-791-4133.

Mark all this on your calendars NOW and begin making your plans to attend what promises to be one more grand reunion in the tradition of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* comrades, families and friends.

The **Association** Board of Directors meeting is slated for Tuesday, 13 May, 1800 at the hotel.

There will be tours and other activities throughout the week. The grand banquet will be Friday evening the 17th; membership meeting and other doings on Saturday.

The complete schedule is included in the registration pages at the back of this newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings from the Heartland.

Hope all had a Happy Holiday season with family and friends...and all are into that happiest of New Years. Time marches on and our next reunion is just around the corner.

If you have not done so...do so immediately...that is make those hotel reservations for the *National Treasures Reunion* at the Crystal City Hilton Hotel. Registration forms, et al, are here. Please act as early as you can. We have to commit to the hotel to fill a minimum number of room nights. If we do not do so by the 30 days prior deadline, the **Association** must make up for lost revenue. **So, please sign up early...**and often.

By the time that this newsletter goes to press, we will have two new active duty **55th Wing** members who will be on the Board of Directors. Both Lt Cols **Brian Tingstad** and **Ken Bauer** have departed the fix.

Ken has served as an active duty **55th** member of the Board since August 2005. That is probably a record for an active duty Board member. During that time Ken, was a key element of our superb relationship with the **55th Wing**. Ken was involved in every aspect of our dealings with the **55th**.

Absolutely essential was his support to our reunion in September 2006, especially the base tours and the hangar barbeque. Ken's leadership and his crewdogs in the **45th Recon Sq** took the lead and made it happen. His leadership in the **45th** has kept the **Association** and the heritage of the squadron and Wing in plain sight to all. We will miss Ken's presence and inputs.

Brian has just had the opportunity to serve on the Board since last August. His short tenure however, has not kept him from making an impact and setting the stage for our relationship with the Wing into the future. His efforts to assist the **55th Fighter Group Association** with their 2008 reunion in Omaha have already made a difference. We are saddened to see 'Tinger' retiring, but we know that a golden opportunity has come along for a great guy. His leadership and **55th** experience will be

missed in the hallways of the wing headquarters and on the flight lines of the **55th Wing** around the world.

A grand, loud *Videmus Omnia* for two **55th** troopers who served the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* with distinction.

I look forward to our rendezvous in DC. This is a great opportunity to see all the sights of the Capital, and to visit with old friends, and just have some good times.

Enough from me for now. **Sign up early!**
And... **Ya'll be careful, out there now.**

Videmus Omnia, Jim.



ASSOCIATION BUSINESS & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Business/Policy/Reunion Suggestions:

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Other Members of the Board of Directors:

Permanent Members: Sam Pizzo, Sparky Adams, Charlie Waters, Bill Ernst, (*Hoover, Maloney, Hoberman, Moore*). **Elected Members:** (*Thomas, McMahon*) Don Griffin, Joe Gyulavics, Fox Censullo, George Ross, Kevin Todd, Michael Cook, Dennis Haun, Pete Glenboski, Larry Utley. *Active Duty:* LtCol Bill Jensen, commander, 343RS and LtCol Mike Kelly, commander, 38RS, as of January 2008.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

The **Association**, as of 7 January 2008, had a checking account balance \$4415. Another \$3866 is in a saving account.



It looks good on paper, but we have bills to pay and expenditures pending (\$3000 in seed money for reunion already paid), so please pay your dues promptly, early and frequently. ☺

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Occasionally, members include modest amounts of money over and above that required for dues to add to the treasury, and every dollar is much appreciated. (Hint, hint, heavy hint.)

Something to consider.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Also as of 7 January 2008, the **Association** had **1,080** members in good standing, of which 160 are widows. That is an **increase of 56** since 22 August 2007. Another 27 associated members and 36 **55th Wing** units receive the newsletter.

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

The number of **active duty members** continues to increase, largely due to the **Association's** exposure to the **Wing** at events such as the *Tales* and Birthday Ball; in addition to the solid support of the **Wing** senior staff, and as current members continue to recruit in other areas of the country.

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The most asked question of the membership chairman is, "When do my dues run out?" It is

indicated on your address label, or in the e-version introduction.

2007 on your address label means that your dues expired at the end of last year. (If you threw the envelope away, go look for it!) Any other year indicates when your dues will expire, or have already expired.

Dues are payable each January, so, please renew now.

If your membership expired in 2005, you are now off the rolls. For those of you whose membership expired in 2006, this will be the last newsletter you will receive unless you reup; plus, \$10.00 is past due for 2007.

\$25 will update your membership for three years beyond what now shows as an expiration year. Advice for all members: as the costs of nearly everything rises and the treasury balance shrinks, a raise in the dues may be necessary to keep the Association solvent. Thus, playing your dues now would be a prudent move.

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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 pre-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.*).

Thomas and 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.

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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**.

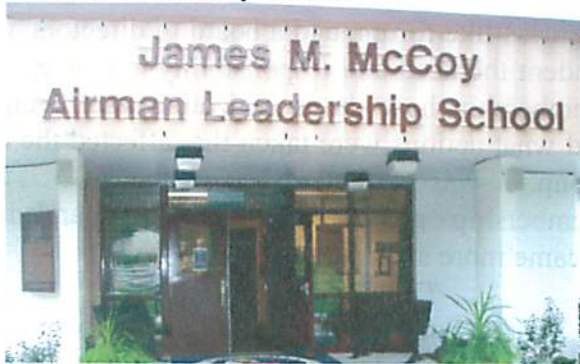
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TALES OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH 2008

This year's edition, (the ninth) of the *Tales* will take place on **Friday, 4 April**, the afternoon before the Birthday Ball date. It will be held in the Offutt Airmen's Leadership School (ALS).

For those of you who have been stationed at Offutt, or been to Bellevue, NE, in years past, the ALS is now housed in a completely renovated building in what was once the original SAC Museum on the north edge of Offutt.

It now bears the name of **CMSgt (Retired) James M. McCoy**, the sixth Chief MSgt of the Air Force, who resides in Bellevue and remains active in base and community affairs.



President Thomas, chairman of the event, is lining up an array of speakers to represent various periods of 55th history to tell their stories.

Tales has grown in attendance every year since its inception, and serves as a mini-reunion for local alums and those who come in from out of town for the Ball. The active duty contingent is a large part of the audience, as well.

As always, there is a social hour beginning at 1500, memorabilia to view, eats and camaraderie to share. Program starts at 1630.



55TH WING 2008 BIRTHDAY BALL

The 30th annual 55th Wing gala is scheduled for Saturday, **5 April 2008**. Once again it will be held at the Omaha Qwest Center. The event is hosted by BGen James Jones, the wing commander.

The theme is "*Honoring the Heritage, Dominating the Day, Forging the Future*".



The planning committee, headed by **Capt Kim Arnold** and **Lt Leo Cruz** of the 55th Contracting Sqd, are diligently working to complete the plans and details for the Wing's largest formal social event of the year.

Last year's Ball was among the most entertaining of all, and attended by an all-time record of well over 820 active duty, retirees community leaders and guests.

The featured speaker this year will be legendary Nebraska football coach **Dr. Tom Osborne**, current Athletic Director at UNL. The program includes the presentation of the **55th SRW Association** Award for Excellence and the Wing Hall of Fame inductee recognition.

The Ball, which was established by our own **Regis Urschler** when he was the **55th SRW** commander, was first held in January 1979. He will be recognized as an "honored guest" at this year's function.

The **Association** is represented on the Ball committee by Ernst and Moore, and makes an annual donation of \$1000 to help defray the ticket price for lower ranking enlisted personnel.

There is a tie-in with the Omaha Hilton just across the street (with a skywalk) from the Qwest. The code is **WBB** to get the special Ball rate of **\$119, plus taxes and fees**. For reservations, call 1-402-998-3400 or 2300.



THE 55TH SRW ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The **55th SRW Association** Award for Excellence is presented annually to that individual

who best exemplifies the basic tenants of the **55th SRW Association**.

Nominees for the 2008 honor will be accepted in time to be presented at the next Birthday Ball.

Past award recipients are: **LtCol Ricky McMahon**, 338th Combat Training Squadron commander, for 2000; and **MSgt Steven** and **MSgt Lisa Haggett**, 55th Wing Command Section, 2001; **LtCol Kurt Kramer**, 38thRS commander, 2002, and **LtCol Glen Gulleckson**, 343rdRS commander, 2003; **TSgt Terry Hunt**, Medical Support Group, 2004; **MSgt Norman de la Vega**, 55th Security Forces Sqd, Elite Guard, in 2005. The 2006 awardee was **MSgt David A. Cain** of the 55th AMS, a crew chief by trade.



The permanent trophy resides in a display case 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.

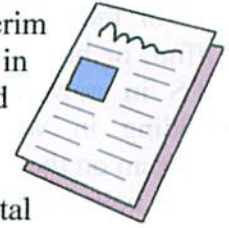


EVOLUTION OF A NEWSLETTER

Seasoned members of the **Association**, who date back to the original organization formed as the **55th ELINT Association** in the 1960s, may remember the early form of newsletters as a one sheet (front and back) to maybe four pages, in the mimeograph style. That organ basically was to inform the members about upcoming, or just passed, reunions the **Association** held roughly every eighteen months.

For founder **Bob Dibbell** that was pretty much all that was needed since there was no formal governing body nor other business conducted. Bob, and his successor as sole officer, **Bruce Bailey**, gradually added new informational features of general interest, such as 'war stories' and an improved TAPS section.

Over time, there were interim 'caretakers', and some upgrades in graphics, paper, pictures, and content as the years went by, but the newsletter basically stayed pretty much a fundamental pamphlet issued on an as needed basis.



With the advent of the **Association's** formal corporate organization in 1995, a structured business-like forum, and a board of directors, it was evident the need and responsibility to convey to the membership how the organization was being run and what actions were taken that affected the entire group. It was particularly so as the **Association's** membership grew, and projects expanded and became more substantive.

The "Modern" Newsletter

To that end, the newsletter you see today had its basic foundation laid by the concerted and efficient efforts of brother **Ben White** when he took over as secretary in 1997. He is the 'father' of the 'modern' **Association** newsletter.

Ben made himself computer literate, created the letterhead, began using the more graphics and wider implementation of pictures, expanded content, and used a standardized format. His first issue: April 1997. *The name **Videmus Omnia** became official with the February 1999 issue.*

There was a collaborative team effort for awhile as yours truly assisted with proofreading, editing, additional materials, etc. Ben retired from the Board of Directors, and I inherited the job and went solo with the January 2001 newsletter. They are now published about every six months.

Upgrades and modifications continued as technology and techniques improved, and were learned by this techno-babe in the cyber-woods who waded through it all; sometimes with blood, sweat, tears, massive hair pulling, churning stomach and primal screams before getting to the relatively routine effort it has become. *It was a steep learning curve.*

Logistics

It may seem that the *Videmus Omnia* just magically shows up in your e-mail or snail-mailbox periodically, but you may be interested in the logistics of the modern-era process.

Ben began doing the grunt work from his home in North Carolina, then electronically sent it to the Heartland of Nebraska for whatever work was needed. The finished product would then go to Errol Hoberman in the Florida panhandle.

From there he sees that it gets printed and mailed. Errol, as the membership guy, has the mailing roster and has worked diligently in concert with a local printer all these years, gradually upgrading the quality of paper and mailing methods. Errol also instituted sending the newsletter via e-mail to 300+ members, which saves on paper, printing and postage costs.

Just the coordinated team effort one would expect from the can-do spirit of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*! (Trust me on this one, it hasn't always gone as smoothly as this narrative reads, but we "git-er-dun".)

So, there you have it. It was my thought that you, as members, would appreciate just how this all came about and how it works. (Maybe not. It could just be me.)

One of the worst things that can happen to organizational periodicals is that they become dull, predictable and/or uninteresting. So, if anyone out there has ideas or suggestions on how to improve the issues (Yeah, yeah, color would be great, but we can't afford it in the printed versions), do **not** hesitate to inform this editor or any member of the Board. Some changes and additions in recent years have come about just that way. This is YOUR newsletter.

As a final note, it has always been the goal to keep the membership informed, interested and entertained. We hope you look forward to receiving the newsletters and that they meet the intended purpose and your expectations. VO, Max.



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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.

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FIGHTIN' FIFTY-FIFTH HISTORY

The following article recounts a remembrance from the 55th's past. There are several other entries on the **Association** web site under the Memory Lane link.



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MY AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, LTCOL JAMES (PAT) WOOLBRIGHT

By Sam Pizzo

As many old timers of the 55th may remember, **Pat**, I and many others arrived at Forbes AFB, KS, in the mid-1950s to begin crew training in the RB-47E aircraft.

Like many of the other navigators, I was fresh out of radar nav school at Mather AFB, CA, and knew mainly those who were class members from Mather. Few, I believe, had any idea with whom they would be crewed.

You may also recall the Wing personnel being called together in an auditorium, whereby the crews were identified. The crew number was announced followed by the name of the aircraft commander, copilot and the navigator.

Back in those days my vision wasn't much better than it is today and the glasses I wore were quite thick, much like the bottom of a coke bottle. Thin lenses were yet to come.

It so happened that Pat and **Bill Palm**, the copilot, were sitting in the row directly behind me. As each name was called, the individual stood up.

When my name was called I stood and turned to see those two standing right behind me, at which time Pat announced in a very loud voice, "Good Lord, Bill, he's blind!"

Needless to say many guffaws were heard from the gathered fellow crew members. At that moment I think I wished I was back in civilian life because I thought for sure that this wasn't going to be a bed of roses. How right I was!

I flew with one aircraft commander for nigh onto eight years, that being Pat; and lived two distinct aircrew member lives: one on the ground, having absolutely no idea what shenanigans Pat would be into from one minute to the next; and the other that of flying with the most professional aircraft commander (in the air, that is) with whom I ever flew. That included crews of B-17, A-26, B-29 as well as RB-47s. Additionally, flying standboard and nav instructor sorties allowed me to see many other aircraft commanders at work.

He must have been doing something right judging from the fact we made select crew status; AND more importantly, judging from the copilots (Palm, **DL Thomas**, **Guido Tesi**, and there may have been more) who moved up to AC status. He must have been a good instructor and mentor.

At the end of WWII, 1945, I came across a 1922 (my birth year) silver dollar that I carry to this day. I never, ever leave home without it and never did so back then, even when flying. Pat kidded me no end about my good luck charm, stating I might be a bit afraid of his flying. Not so, of course.

Pat was killed in an RB crash at Forbes about a year or so after I left the crew (*September 1962*), and some years later **Tom Moncure** told me that not much of Pat's remains were recovered. This I knew, as **Burt Barrett** flew me in from Area 51 to be a pallbearer at Pat's funeral.

But one thing I did **not** know was that a silver dollar of Pat's was found. I have no idea when he started carrying it, but I know he did not have one early on and learning that touched me deeply.

Too bad his good luck charm didn't do as well for him as mine has for me.

I wish it had.

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TAPS



BLANCHARD, William L., 86, died 12 November 2007; Crosby, TX; wife, **Norene**. Bill was an RB-50 radar operator in the 343rd at Ramey AFB, PR, and Barksdale AFB, LA, from 1949 into early 1950s.

BRITAIN, Joseph F., 22 September 2007; Springfield, MO. Joe was an RB-50 navigator with the 55th at Ramey and Barksdale during the 1950s.

BYRNE, Robert (Bob) J., 2 September 2007; Cheyenne, WY; wife: **Gloria**. With the wing at Forbes AFB, KS, Bob flew as a navigator. After retiring from the Air Force, he had a second career as Deputy County Clerk of Laramie County, WY.

DOHERTY, Russell E., 87, 7 September 2007; Falcon's Landing, VA; wife **Barbara**. The general was a most respected CINCSAC, a true gentleman, and a friend of the 55th.

EMIG, Kathy, 53, 1 December 2007, Sidney, IA; wife of **Charles (Chuck)**, a 55th veteran pilot, maintenance and staff officer at Offutt in the 1970s.

GRIGSBY, Wanda, 83, 5 January 2007; Medford, OR. She was the wife of **Donald** for 61 years. Don is a WWII veteran bombardier with 30 ETO combat missions; and later was an EWO with the 343SRS in RB-50s and -47s at Forbes, 1953-60.

HOFER, Wes, 69, 5 November 2007; Kailua Kona, HI; wife, **Joy**. A native of South Dakota, Wes was an RC EWO at Kadena and Offutt in the 1970s, then an intel staff officer; and he later worked for Northrop Grumman Aerospace.

MCMAHON, Robert J., 73, 3 December 2007, Bellevue, NE, in an auto accident; wife, **Patricia**. Bob was a longtime 55th navigator in RBs at Forbes, in the original RC program at Offutt, and flew RCs with the 82nd SRS at Kadena. He returned to crew and staff duty at Offutt before retiring.

OSKAMP, Garry, 92, 24 July 2007; Victorville, CA. He was a veteran pilot of three wars beginning in 1940 - WWII, Korea, Viet Nam - although he was a private pilot for 12 years before getting into the Army Air Corps in 1940. He retired as a colonel in 1964.

PAGE, Karel O, 46, 12 October 2007; Selinsburg, PA; wife of **David**; and daughter of **Gail** and **Bruce Olmstead** of Annapolis, MD.

POPERT, Marie, 2 June 2007; Olympia, WA; wife of **Richard**.

RUST, Howard, 85, 22 October 2007; Pharr, TX; wife of 64 years, **Erma**. Rusty entered the AAF in 1942 and was a veteran of WWII, Korea, Cold War and Vietnam. He also was a longtime **55th** pilot and AC in RB-47s at Forbes from 1956 thru 1969. He retired in 1970.

THOMPSON, Robert R., 86, 6 November 2007; Vero Beach, FL. Served many years in the **55th** from 1956 as an RB-29/50 maintainer who also flew on operational missions.

WEST, Doris, 25 September 2007, Ft Walton Beach, FL; wife of **Rufus**, a former EWO in RB-50s at Ramey and Forbes.

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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 2 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, location, crew position/aircraft, and/or duty specialty, organization and bases and approximate years with 55th; and any other pertinent information you wish to include.

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

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LETTERS AND STUFF



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Sir:

I just received the newsletter. It is getting harder to recognize many of the names in the (*publication*), but I really enjoy (*each issue*). You do a wonderful job, but I would like to see the names of the attendees after each reunion.

I was in the 343rd SRS from 1951 to 1958 as both a raven and copilot on **George Penfield's** crew.

Respectfully, **Hal Hackenberger**, Tulsa, OK
(*From an e-mail, 19 October 2007*)

(*Ed. Note: Hal was informed that attendee lists are routinely published after each reunion and he was directed to the Association web site archives of past newsletters and dates of post-reunion issues.*

Also, his crew duty line begged the question of how that occurred. His answer, in part, follows :)

I went through aviation cadets in WWII and came out a 19 year-old second lieutenant pilot. Recalled for the Korean War in 1951 I went to ECM training at Biloxi, MS. Was then assigned to the **55th** at Ramey AFB, PR, as a raven on Penfield's RB-50 crew.

In 1956, George and I went to B-47 training while the wing was converting to RBs. We returned to Forbes AFB, KS, and this time I was George's copilot. (*E-mail, 23 October 2007*)

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Dear Max,

My daughter **Dian** and I plan to attend the **55th** reunion in DC next May.

(*While there*) I plan to have Rusty's cremated remains inurned at Arlington National Cemetery.

God Bless, **Erma Rust**, Pharr, TX (30 Oct 2007)

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JOHN KING HONORED

The Rockwall (TX) City Council voted unanimously to name a new four-lane bypass (*SH205, currently under construction*) the **John King Boulevard**.

King was a former town councilman who served seven years (1999-2006) and was honored for his dedicated service and numerous contributions to the community. He died from cancer in December 2006 at age 66.

John's Air Force career included service in Vietnam, being an RC-135 pilot/AC/IP in the 55th at Offutt AFB, NE, in mid-1980s. He also commanded the 38SRS. He later was commander of Det 2, 2762nd Logistics Sqd with E-Systems at Greenville, TX, from 1989-93, when he retired in the local area.

At a ceremony at the 15 October 2007 Rockwall City Council meeting, the naming announcement was formally made with John's widow, **Marilyn**, present. Also attending were former comrades of John's: **Fox Censullo**, **Mike McFarland**, **Loose Lane** and **Richard Holsinger**, 55th alums and **Association** members all.

In addition to recognition presentation by the Rockwell mayor and city council, **LtCol Kent Dusek** (another 55th alum and **Association member**), commander of the 645AESS (a squadron successor to Det 2), gave Marilyn memorabilia from his unit to honor John.

(Article compiled from information from Fox Censullo and Dallas and Rockwall newspapers.)

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REG STANDS DOWN

The following is a letter (in part) from Reg Urschler to **Gordon Stevenson**, Chief of Staff of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF), December 2007.

Dear Gordon:

As you know, I have been fortunate for the past several years to serve as one of the initial cadre of civilian pilots selected by the Air Force to participate in their popular and successful recruiting program the Heritage Flight. This idea first was conceived in 1997 as a "one-time" display to celebrate the USAF's 50th Anniversary as a separate service.

Recently the USAF and Air Combat Command (ACC) established a 65 year age limitation for participants. This unexpected and unanticipated age constraint has prompted me to reflect and evaluate the impact on my level of participation in future air show activities and commitments.

This year culminates over thirty years of **Gunfighter** sponsorship, and more than three thousand hours in Mustangs, the fulfillment of a dream which began as a youth during World War II. A dream and avocation which I have shared as a

history lesson and remembrance with as many individuals of all ages as possible; especially and particularly, with those of the fading "Greatest Generation", whose always emotional and grateful responses made for the most satisfying reward of all.

In the final analysis, I believe it now is appropriate to "pass the torch" of responsibility and tradition to the next generation.

Larry "Lumpy" Lumpkin has been a member of the **Gunfighter** team for many years, and shortly will mark his fifth anniversary flying the Mustang. A superb pilot and CAF representative, he enjoys the complete support and confidence of the **Gunfighter** crew. He has established his own personal reputation as an exceptionally well qualified professional who is highly respected by fellow CAF members, as well as his peers in the air show arena.



In conclusion, I extend my heart-felt and deepest appreciation along with my very best wishes for continued success to him, the Crew and to all those who support the noble and worthy cause to.... "Keep 'em Flying".

With kindest regards, **Reg**.

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AIR COMBAT COMMAND COMMANDER RECOGNIZES SAC'S HISTORIC ROLE

The following letter was issued in late November 2007 to ACC personnel. The kicker here is that General Corley **never served in SAC**. He is a career fighter guy, school and policy leader.

It would seem that SAC vets are no longer persona non grata, and that the name can be spoken out loud once again. **Max**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR COMBAT COMMAND,
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VA
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER

ACC Warriors:

October 1, 2007, marked the 50th anniversary of the day Strategic Air Command (SAC) Commander placed its first crews on 24 hour nuclear alert. On November 9, 1957, five weeks after one-third of the bomber force began alert operations, the SAC Commander, General Thomas Power, addressed the alert force in a letter that stressed the importance of

believing in the job with all of their hearts and performing it to the best of their abilities. **General Power's historic message is as relevant today as it was in those early years of the Cold War.**



America's role as a world leader has evolved significantly since the end of the global struggle almost two decades ago. We now live in an era of unconventional challenges and diverse strategic uncertainties that require us to remain poised to answer our nation's call and fully prepared to meet any threat to our nation's security.

Although changes in the world's strategic environment allowed us to reduce our nuclear weapons arsenal, deterrence remains a key element of our national defense strategy. Thus, our commitment to the nuclear mission must be as strong today as it was 50 years ago. We must remain acutely focused and vigilant on this critical mission and the exacting standards required for its success.

I am proud of the professionalism you display every day. I draw great strength knowing the men and women of Air Combat Command honor our link to the past while fighting today's war and preparing for tomorrow's potential threats. I charge you to maintain the same dedication and high standards established by General Power and our SAC warriors long ago - our nation demands it.

Sincerely,

John D. W. Corley
General, USAF

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ADMIRAL NOVVY RETURNS

It was in 2004 that **Maria Goforth McAtee**, her daughter **Linda**, my daughter **Roxann Phillips** and I went on our trip to Russia. We were met and escorted all around St. Petersburg by **Admiral Boris Novvy**, Russian Navy, retired. It was such a memorable visit. (*Article in October 2004 issue of the Videmus Omnia.*)

Admiral Novvy was later invited and attended the **55th SRW Association** Reunion in San Diego in March 2005. He still speaks fondly of that experience. (*Reported in May 2005 edition of VO.*)

This past August, I had returned to St. Petersburg and again met Admiral Novvy, renewing our friendship. While there, I invited the admiral to come to California again and see Sacramento, the state capital, never thinking that it was much of a possibility. Surprise! Surprise! He was coming to Washington, DC, to speak at the annual POW-MIA meeting in October 2007. He is still very active in researching several losses of American missing military men from the Cold War era.

So, Admiral Novvy decided to take a few extra days and come to California. Both Roxann and I scurried about to find some Russian translators. What an absolute delight and thrill to be able to escort him around. We took him to the foothills in the apple and wine country, and to the state capital building where he had his picture taken at Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger's** office door.



*Roxann Phillips, Adm Novvy, Pat Phillips
with San Francisco in background.*

While the admiral was visiting in California, the local Russian newspaper had reporters come to interview him, and they were so taken by him that

they took him to several Russian events, including a visit to a World War II Russian Veteran's Home for a festive evening.

Admiral Novyy requested to see the Pacific Ocean. So, while in San Francisco we stopped at the overlook of the Golden Gate Bridge, and walked on the beach by the Cliff House. He said that he had a wonderful time and might consider coming back. What an honor that would be.

Pat Phillips, Sacramento, CA October 2007
Widow of Capt Dean Phillips

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55th EAST PARTIES AGAIN

On 9 December 2007, 40 former **55thers** who live in the DC-area gathered for relaxed holiday cheer at the Yount home in Fairfax Station, VA.

Those in attendance, many of whom will be working on the reunion next May, were: **Dean and Lisa Yount, Ed and Monica Topps, Rick and Cary McMahan, Ken and Sue Cobleigh, Andy and Paris Marotta, Bill and Ann Strandberg, Gordon and Patty Issler, Dave and Connie Bujold, Val and Laura Dugie, Bo and Ann Marlin, Steve and Diana Barrett, Carl and Chris Misner, Don and Tami Olds, Kevin Highfield, Craig and Amanda Allen, Jeff and Trish Seinwill, Mark and Sharon Thompson, Neal Puckett and Marcie Atwood, Steve and Kim Rice, Dave and Sharri Gessert, and Carol Johnson.**

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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 the near and far reaches of Fifty-Fifth-land.

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

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ASSOCIATION COINS



Front



Back

Coin shown as actual size

Depicted above is a picture of the official Association coin (1.75" diameter) that was a gift presented to all who registered for the September 2006 reunion in Omaha.

It is available for purchase. Make checks payable to the **55th SRW Association**. Send check and mailing instructions to Jim Thomas' 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. For 10 or more coins, please contact Jim for cost and availability.

You can view a color rendition of the coin on the Association website: www.55srwa.org/sales.

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MEMORIAL BRICK ORDERS

One More Once

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, near Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, which was 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, so please do so soon.

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.

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 or e-mail: BillErnst1@cox.net

See you at the reunion. VO, Bill

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ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

These are 'must have' items for the reunions.

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

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. Anything larger, we have to go to Omar the Tentmaker.

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 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.

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**.

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.

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THE ASSOCIATION TIE

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 \$25 per tie, including shipping and postage.

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

* * * * *

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

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.

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55TH FASHION PINS

As a direct result of newsletter notices, the pins continue to be sold to **55SRWA** members all over the country. They are particularly evident at official and social functions at 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 birthday, anniversary accessory gift, or holiday stocking stuffer. Better yet, ladies, order one for yourself.

Classy, but inexpensive.



(Shown as actual size)

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, offers them and **you can purchase directly from the store.**

Send order 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.**

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

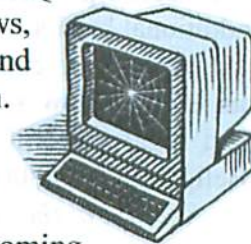
'Transition' has been the keyword for this operation. **Don Griffin**, who established the **Association** web site in September 1996, and devoted much time and energy to maintaining and upgrading it during its evolution over the ensuing years, retired as webmeister last year.

The home page has become a most valuable medium for connection to the membership. He also has made many other significant contributions to the **Association** with his wise and often prudent counsel as a Director, in which capacity he still contributes. *Well done, Grif!!!!*

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The web site is now in the capable mind, hands and fingers of **Jim Maloney**. The home page is an integral and vital part of the **Association's** line of communications and information. You are urged to check it out and view the makeover Jim has made.

Everything you want to know about the **Association** is there: "Corp HQ" includes the constitution, bylaws, memos for record, officers and bios; and **membership form**. The "Mail Room" has e-traffic of interest from members for other members.



Timely info on upcoming reunions, on the Birthday Ball, and other events are covered; plus important bulletins on any projects in progress. "Clothing Sales", "Memory Lane", and links to other associated and interesting sites are included.

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; and the January 2001 issue has the Hall of Fame history.

Jim is always looking for new and fresh ideas. Inputs from members are encouraged and welcome.

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MEMORY LANE FEATURE

The **Association** web page *Memory Lane* feature continues to grow, with factual, non-fiction stories on **55SRW** or **55th Wing**, individuals, crews or events. Browse it and you will be pleased at what you view.

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

This is your chance to let the **Association** membership learn of your experiences, 'war stories', and 'there I was' tales. Take advantage of this opportunity to share and preserve history.

REUNIONS

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343rd SRS REUNION
3-5 OCTOBER 2007-LINCOLN, NE



This year's mini-reunion of seventeen Cold War veterans, from the 343rd SRS (circa 1960s), in Lincoln, NE, was a smaller than expected; however, it was truly AWESOME.

Paul Dolby, the group's organizer, did an excellent job. With people coming from coast to coast, Paul chose a central location and great hotel, with easy access for all. That allowed for this small, but close, family-like group to get together and remember the "good old days", as well as catch-up and find out how we all are doing today.

There was lots of time for reminiscing in the hospitality room. Pictures were exchanged, stories were told and memories were shared, and some may say that some of the tales were embellished; but, all can remember 50 years ago as if were yesterday!

The reunion included a guided trip to the former SAC Museum, with lunch under the wing of a B-36; a visit to a safari zoo, and a great banquet.

The **Kitchens** shared some dancing with us; **Hall** and **York** told lots of great stories and ol' **Stan Stark** even sang!

Paul, I think that I can say a very loud and clear "Thank you", from all us who were able to attend.

The group decided to have its next reunion in Dayton, OH, in September 2009.

Report by *Mike Chaput*.

(Edited from an e-mail to the Association web site October 2008, with additional material from Paul Dolby.)



L to R: Stanley Stark, Billy Millen, Kathy Millen, Dottie Hall, David Hall, Paul Dolby, Jean Duncan, John Duncan, James Rodecap, Francine Chaput, Don Jean, Leland York, Peggy York, Joyce and James Kitchens. Not pictured: Kevin Fisher, and Mike Chaput.
(Mike was the photographer)

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STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND 30 APR - 4 MAY 2008- FAIRBORN, OH

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

This will be a most memorable gathering for all SAC veterans in that **the main event is the dedication of the SAC Memorial** in the Memorial Gardens of the National Museum of the Air Force at **1400 on Friday, 2**

May. There will also be an "under the wings" banquet in the Museum on Saturday, 3 May.

Reunion project officer is **J.T. Romero**. You can contact him to get the complete registration package for full coverage of the event and costs. Write to him at PO Box 14233, Tucson, AZ, 85732-4223; phone: 1-502-203-8809; e-mail – jtrome25@excite.com.

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STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND MEMORIAL PROJECT

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

The edifice was set in place 31 July 2007 by Dodds Monuments, the same company who produced the 55th Cold War Memorial.



Front



Back

The memorial has been paid for in full. The funding target of \$25,000 was readily achieved thanks to contributions of individual SAC veterans, SAC organizations and private sources. **However, donations will still be gratefully accepted to help pay for the dedication and associated costs.**

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

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B-47 STRATOJET ASSOCIATION

25-27 SEPT 2008 – MARIETTA, GA

Anyone who was ever associated with flying, maintaining, supporting and/or is interested in the B-47 is cordially invited to attend this reunion.

It will be held at the Marietta Conference Center and Resort. There will be a plethora of tours, dinners, and a full Saturday program with the membership business meeting, a symposium, and the grand banquet. The featured speaker will be the 55th's own Col (Ret) **John R. McKone**.



Point man for contact is **Bob Bowman**. He can be reached at 770-826-5562; or e-mail: bbowman@northhighland.com. There is also a web site: **B-47.com** where details can be obtained as they develop and are posted.

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WHO SHOT WHAT



Hotel photo from Hilton website. Graphics and official logos from various sources. Ball logo courtesy of **SSgt Timothy Sass**, 55th Contracting Sqd.; P-51 from Reg; Novvy and Phillips ladies, Pat Phillips; 343rd reunion group, Mike Chaput.

Gen Corley from AF website; **Association** coin, Mike Cook; McCoy bldg, cap/shirt, **Association** trophy, Moore; tie, Pizzo; 55th pin, **Beth Kelley**; SAC Memorial from **Jack Kovacs**.

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55th SRW Association 2008 National Treasures Reunion Agenda

May 13 – 18, 2008 Washington, D.C. (Hilton Crystal City, VA)

Tuesday, May 13th

1800 – 2100: Board Director's Meeting Crystal Room (2nd Floor)

Wednesday, May 14th

0900 – 1500: Registration / Welcome Center Crystal Room (2nd Floor)

1230 – 1600: National Cathedral Tour & Tea Hotel Foyer

1500 – 2300: Hospitality Open Crystal Room (2nd Floor)

Thursday, May 15th

0900 – 1500: Registration / Welcome Center Crystal Room (2nd Floor)

0900 – 1600: National Mall Walking Tour Hotel Foyer

0900 – 1600: Pentagon & Arlington Cemetery Walking Tour Hotel Foyer

1500 – 2300: Hospitality Open Crystal Room (2nd Floor)

1700 – 2200: Potomac River Dinner Cruise Hotel Foyer

Friday, May 16th

0900 – 1500: Registration / Welcome Center Crystal Room (2nd Floor)

0900 – 1600: National Mall Walking Tour Hotel Foyer

0900 – 1600: Pentagon & Arlington Cemetery Walking Tour Hotel Foyer

1500 – 2300: Hospitality Crystal Room (2nd Floor)

1900 – 2100: "Coat & Tie" Banquet Dinner Admiralty Ballroom (2nd Floor)

Saturday, May 17th

0900 – 1100: Association Business Meeting Potomac Room (2nd Floor)

1130 – 1530: Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum Hotel Foyer

1330 – 1730: Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum Hotel Foyer

1500 – 2300: Hospitality Open James Room (1st Floor)

Sunday, May 18th

1100: Hilton Hotel Checkout – (Start planning for 2009 55th SRWA Reunion)

"55th SRWA 2008 National Treasures Reunion" Registration Form
14-18 May 2008, Washington, D.C.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION – MAKE A COPY OF THIS FORM AS A REMINDER & EVENT VERIFICATION
 [Monies will be refunded for events for which you pre-pay that cannot accommodate you or are cancelled.]

Print Name(s) [as you'd like them to appear on your name tag & events pass]

1. _____
 2. _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone: (____) _____

E-MAIL _____

ASSOCIATED UNIT & AIRCRAFT: _____

- **Registration: Postmarked By 12 Apr 08 . . . Number Attending** ____ x \$ **120** = \$ _____
Postmarked After 12 Apr 08 . . . Number Attending ____ x \$ **135** = \$ _____

[Includes: Welcome Packet, Hospitality Room, Friday Banquet & Association Meeting]

- **Marinated CHICKEN Breast** with Rice Pilaf is my Entrée Selection for the Banquet
 - **London Broil BEEF** with Rosemary Potatoes is my Entrée Selection for the Banquet
 - **VEGETARIAN or Special Dietary Dinner Request is** _____

- **Local Attendees:** Hospitality (\$40) or Banquet (\$70) Only . . . **Number** ____ x \$ ____ = \$ _____

- **NATIONAL CATHEDRAL TOUR & TEA:** [Wednesday Afternoon; depart @ 12:30 p.m.]
Maximum of 30 applicants will be allowed to participate. Metro transportation will be used for this event; Metro Pass cost is included. Enjoy an in-depth Cathedral tour followed by tea with a scenic view of Washington.
Number Attending ____ @ \$ **33** = \$ _____

- **POTOMAC RIVER BOAT DINNER CRUISE:** [Thursday Evening; 5:15 & 5:45 p.m. buses]
Minimum of 190 dinners contracted; maximum of 242 dinner reservations allowed. Bus transportation is contracted for this five course, three-hour dinner cruise. Cash bar for drinks on this dinner cruise. Please select an entrée below:

Number Attending ____ @ \$ **98** = \$ _____

- Entrée Selections:** Cornish Game Hen Prime Rib Shrimp Filet of Haddock
 Poached Salmon Vegetable Lasagna Pasta Primavera Steamed Vegetable Platter

- Will need transportation to Old Town Alexandria's Boat Dock
 Have my own transportation Can take ____ others to/from Old Town Alexandria

(Check out the Association website: www.55SRWA.org . . . More Reunion Events Continued on Page 2)

- **UDVAR – HAZY AIR & SPACE MUSEUM:** [Saturday Afternoon; Noon & 1:30 p.m. buses] Limited to 200 participants requiring bus transportation. Fee includes a ticket to an IMAX Theater presentation. Participants driving personal vehicles will be charged a \$12 parking fee. Docents are members or friends of 55th SRWA. Number Attending ____ @ \$ 22 = \$ _____
- Will need transportation to the Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum
 Have my own transportation Can take ____ others to/from the Udvar-Hazy Museum

WALKING TOURS – No minimum number of participants required to schedule these events. Transportation to these locations will be via Metro (subway). Any additional costs for related attractions or alternate modes of transportation are the individual’s responsibility. For groups of 20 or more members, the Reunion committee will make every effort to make a local resident available to assist in the enjoyment of this event. Wear comfortable clothing & shoes!

- Tour – A: [9 a.m. Thursday -- National Mall, Memorials & Monuments]
Number ____ x \$10 = \$ _____
- Tour – B: [9 a.m. Thursday -- Pentagon, AF Memorial & Arlington Nat’l Cemetery]
Number ____ x \$10 = \$ _____
- Tour – C: [9 a.m. Friday -- National Mall, Memorial & Monuments]
Number ____ x \$10 = \$ _____
- Tour – D: [9 a.m. Friday -- Pentagon, AF Memorial & Arlington National Cemetery]
Number ____ x \$10 = \$ _____

NOTE: The Reunion Committee will make every effort to get Congressional sponsorship for US Capitol & White House guided tours. No promises. If interested, check a box:

- US Capitol Tour on Thursday - US Capitol Tour on Friday
 - White House Tour on Thursday - White House Tour on Friday
- US Capitol & White House guided tours will be organized & led by local Association members.

Multiple tourist opportunities are offered by various vendors in and around the National Mall. Popular attractions that the Reunion Committee will have detailed information on are:

- Smithsonian Museums & Exhibits Halls
 - National Zoo
 - Holocaust Museum
 - International Spy Museum
 - Joint Services Open House / Air Show – Andrews AFB 16-18 May (RC-135 is probable)
- The Reunion Welcome Center will have information on popular D.C. tourist attractions.**
- Interested in [_____] and would like information prior to the Reunion.

Enclosed is a check for the 2008 National Treasures Reunion totaling \$ _____.

Make a copy of this Registration Form & mail the original along with your payment to:
55 SRWA 2008 National Treasures Reunion
c/o Ed & Monica Topps, 5108 Charles Ewell Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22193

NOTE: Hotel reservations for the 2008 Reunion at the special reduced rate must be made prior to 12 Apr 2008. If you haven’t already, call Hilton Reservations @ 1-800-445-8667, and ask for Crystal City, VA & the “55th SRWA National Treasures Reunion” group rate.