

Videmus Omnia

55th WING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2011

RECON ROUNDUP REUNION

The **55th Wing Association's** twenty-eighth reunion is fast approaching and will be upon us pronto, partners. The dates are 18-22 May 2011 and HQ will be the elegant Courtyard Marriott in Allen, TX, just about 30 miles north of Dallas.



Greg Smith, a former 55th Wing Vice Commander, is the Recon Roundup trail boss, and he has set up what is anticipated to be another memorable reunion.

So get fired up and make your travel plans and hotel reservations now, if not sooner.

You should also fill out the registration form at the end of this missive (pages 13-14) and send that in soonest. Note the increased fee if sent in after 4 May.

Astute members will note that this is a change of venue from what was advertised in the December issue of the *Videmus Omnia*. The previous locale had limiting factors in number of rooms and ballroom size to accommodate what is anticipated to be a well attended reunion - an attractive locale, mid-south central US, and lots of members within driving distance.

The Courtyard Marriott in Allen has an excellent selection of accommodations and amenities to suit the most discriminating traveler: free parking, The Bistro restaurant, pool, fitness area, high speed internet access in the rooms and lobby, etc. For those of you with internet access, use this link to check out the hotel:

<http://v-brochure.hvmassetlibrary.com/MAR/TX/75002ATX>



To wit: for reservations, call the hotel direct at 1-214-383-1151, or 1-800-627-7468 toll free. Reservations can also be made on-line, see registration form for the link. **The negotiated special rate for the reunion is \$95**, plus taxes and applicable charges (*but, of course*). Ask for **55th Wing Association Block** or FWA to get the reunion rate, **which is good for three days either side of the reunion**. Rooms are standard king and standard queen, and upgrades are available. **The reservation cutoff date for the group rate is**

midnight 4 May 2011. The group rate includes breakfast buffet daily.

Transportation options to/from Dallas/FtWorth International and Dallas Love Field are explained on the registration form.

Allen has the scenic charm and comfortable pace quite different from that of the urban metroplex of Dallas/Ft Worth. Shopping, restaurants and entertainment are within walking distance of the hotel in The Village.



The average weather for the area in mid-to-late May is mild, with highs in mid-80s and lows of mid-60s.

Hospitality suite and a grand banquet will be the center pieces of this reunion. The agenda includes golf (*for those so inclined, see registration form*), and an informal evening reception on Thursday the 19th, the first day of registration.

In order to keep the registration cost down, there is a departure from previous reunions regarding the hospitality suite. This one will have specific hosted bar hours: three hours during the Thursday evening reception, and one hour prior to the Saturday banquet. At other times, the bar will be pay-as-you-go when it is open. The hotel will furnish all the beverages and servers. The suite will be available for congregating often during the reunion.

On the 20th, offered is a bus tour (0900-1300) to the L-3 facility at Greenville, TX, where the **55th Wing's** RC-135 fleet undergoes modernization and maintenance. A minimum of **50** folks are needed to sign up and make this happen. The cost is \$30 per person, includes lunch, and will be collected at registration. There will be a Real Texas barbeque at the hotel that evening. Casual or western attire appropriate. *Yee hah!!*

Saturday will see the general membership meeting at 0900 (**Association** polo shirts recommended for this event). **It is at this meeting that the election of the Board of Directors will happen.** Then free time for those wanting side trips to Big D, or wherever; and the grand banquet that night. Coat and **Association** tie (*if you got 'em*) for the gents, ladies too, if they want.

There is a wealth of information on the reunion at **55wa.org**. If that, this article and the registration form do not give you enough information, please call Greg Smith at (214) 544-0546, or e-mail him at lg.smith@tx.rr.com.

Let's put the eyes of Texas upon y'all. See ya there!!!!!! **Videmus Omnia.**



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings from the Heartland.

I hope that groundhog is right this year. His batting average needs a little help. I love this time of the year. Not because I love winter, but because there are lots of things that the **Association** does at the **55th Wing** that are in full swing. Then, as the cycle goes this time, we have our reunion just to cap things off. Great!

Well, this year there is much more, much more happening before that reunion.

The **Association** will help, whenever possible, with the rebirth of the relationship, started during the Cold War, with the RAF 51 Squadron and the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth**. This has already started with hands-on training of the RAF cadre in the 338th Combat Training Squadron. Also the 51 Sqd will be featured at the **Tales of the 55th**. We are just getting underway on this one.

Another **Association**, once in a lifetime opportunity, will be the final public reunion of the Doolittle Raiders at the Strategic Air and Space Museum near Ashland, NE, this April. The **Association** will be helping with the arrangements for an event at Offutt in the Raiders' Lounge. The five remaining Raiders' expressed a desire to go back to the Raiders' Lounge where they were present in 1976 when the **55th** dedicated the lounge in the then-Officers Club in their honor. What an opportunity for the **55th Wing** and the **Association!**

With all this done...we will meet in Allen, TX, for the RECON ROUNDUP. A great hotel, lots to do within walking distance, an outlet mall of 100 stores, a trip to the birth place of all reconnaissance aircraft of the **55th** for many years; and as always, good times with old friends...PRICELESS ! If you can get away, come to the ROUNDUP.

In the meantime...ya'll be careful out there, now.

VIDEMUS OMNIA, Jim T



55th WING CHANGE OF COMMAND



Colonel (BGen-select) Donald Bacon will assume command of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* from BGen John N. T. Shanahan at a ceremony on 9 March 2011 at Offutt. Gen Shanahan leaves after nearly two years and moves to the position of Deputy Director of Global Operations (J39), Joint Staff at the Pentagon, Washington, DC.

Colonel Bacon is a former RC EWO and Chief of Protocol with the Wing (1998-2000). He is the first EWO to hold the chair, and the first 55th alum to return to command since Colonel Dan Peterson, the first navigator to be Wing CC, in 1988. Before being rated, he was an intelligence officer; and he has been in the electronic combat units at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, during several assignments.



Col Bacon's last assignment was Deputy Commander of 3rd Air Force at Ramstein AB, Germany.

As per tradition, an Offutt cadre of Association members will host the new commander on 22 March at Anthony's Restaurant in Omaha. He will be the ninth new Wing CC to be so treated.



HALL OF FAME

The Association selection committee completed its deliberations, and this year there will be three worthy inductees into the 55th Wing Hall of Fame. Cold War veterans and comrades all, they are: Colonel (Ret) Michael J. Cook, LtCol (Ret) Robb L. Hoover, and LtCol (Ret) Max R. Moore.

The trio is recognized for their significant active duty contributions and many years of outstanding, dedicated service to the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*, even all through their after Air Force years, which continues to the present. A pilot, EWO, and navigator respectively, they now form their own 'select crew'.

The induction ceremony will take place Friday, 25 March 2011, at Offutt AFB, time and venue to be determined. They will also be presented at the 55th Wing Birthday Ball the following evening.



TALES OF THE 55TH - 2011

The 12th edition of *Tales* is slated for Friday, 25 March 2011. Once again Pres Thomas will orchestrate and emcee more oral history of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's* heritage. Speakers from various eras of the Wing's storied past will present personal narrations to a crowd of active duty troops, veterans and family and friends. It is at the CMSgt James M. McCoy Airmen Leadership School building near the north Offutt/Bellevue gate. Doors open at 1500 for social time and memorabilia viewing; the program begins at 1630. It is informal and eats and beverages will be available. **Be there!!**



55th WING BIRTHDAY BALL

The 33rd annual gala is to be held on Saturday, 26 March 2011 at the LaVista (NE) Embassy Suites.

This event will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the WWII origin of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*. It is the Wing's largest formal social function each year and is regularly attended by over 800 people, including many dignitaries and members of the Association, both local and from out of town.



Major Andy Burroughs, of the 55th Intel Support Sqd, and his sidekick, **Capt Devin Long**, of the 45thRS, are leading the committee to plan and execute the gala affair.

The theme for this year’s Ball is “*Courage, Character, Commitment*” recognizing the focus of the Wing, and the men and women who perform the many and varied missions the Wing executes worldwide in support of both peacetime and in the war on terrorism.

Major General James Poss is this year's guest speaker, a former commander of the 488th Intelligence Squadron, RAF Mildenhall, UK. General Poss is currently the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and

Reconnaissance (ISR), HQ USAF, Pentagon, Washington , DC, and is responsible for policy formulation, planning, and leadership of Air Force ISR capabilities, which includes 55th Wing Rivet Joint operations. **Dave Webber** will again be the emcee for the event. He is a longtime Omaha TV personality who once served a four year tour in the Air Force and was on the SAC Elite guard.

As is the custom, the Hall of Fame inductees and the **Association’s** Award for Excellence are presented at the function. After dinner and the program, there will be dancing to the *Nightwing* ensemble of the Heartland of America Band.

The **Association** contributes \$1000 each year to help defray the costs for younger airmen to attend; and Max Moore and Bill Ernst continue to represent the **Association** as advisors to the committee. Moore also submitted the theme idea which was accepted by the wing commander.



THE BRITISH ARE COMING!! THE BRITISH ARE COMING!!!

Oh, wait, they are already here.

Last summer the United Kingdom announced it would acquire three KC-135 tankers from the US to be converted into RC-135 Rivet Joint platforms. That modification program will be completed by L-3 at Greenville, TX. *Who else?*

Eventually, the aircraft will be stationed at RAF Waddington and flown by the 51 Squadron on reconnaissance missions similar to those of the 55th Wing. They will replace the venerable Nimrod R1 which will go out of service next year.

Meanwhile, up to four RAF crews will be trained at Offutt by the 338th Combat Crew Training Sqd of the 55th, and instructors of Crew Training International (CTI). They arrived at Offutt in mid-January to begin ten weeks of ground training by CTI personnel, which includes Jim Thomas and other **Association** members.

All of this actually renews and/or continues an operational connection that has been in place between the 55th and the 51 Sqd for many, many years.



(Note: This story is compiled, in part, from an article in the British military magazine, “The deSider”, as is the creative picture below. It depicts an RC with RAF markings, a ‘reflection’ of the USAF/55th version. See the Union Jack in the upper right and Old Glory in the lower right. Difficult to see, yes, but worth the effort.

They are there. Just take the editor’s word for it.)



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of 31 January 2011, the **Association** had 693 members **in good standing**, including 19 life members and 12 gratis positions from the **55th Wing** senior staff. This is an **increase of five** from 1 October 2010. Not bad considering the **Association** lost about 70 whose memberships lapsed in 2009. **Even those folks got the last newsletter and directory as a good faith gesture in hopes they would remit dues to get reinstated.**

Approximately 170 widows of former members receive the newsletter at no cost, and are welcome to participate in any and all **Association** activities.

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The most asked question of the membership chairman is, “What is the expiration date of my dues?”

That date is to the RIGHT of your name on the address label in bold print: 20XX

It is also listed as part of your personal information entry in the Association Membership Directory to the RIGHT of your, or your spouse’s, name, i.e.: Michael J. Cook, Tina 2012

If you were delinquent on 31 December 2010, please renew soonest. Membership comes due each January. It is hoped/expected that those of who have yet to renew their dues will do so.

Regrettably, any member whose dues **expired on 31 December 2010** will be **taken off** the member-in-good-standing roll **effective 1 April 2011** and no longer receive the newsletter or other **Association** correspondence.

To be reinstated, please remit \$20 to become current. Or better still; send \$55 for the next three years.

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Please remit dues payment to **55th Wing Association as soon as practical for future years.**

Mail to: **55th Wing Association,**

ATTN: Michael J. Cook

PO Box 13165

Offutt AFB, NE 68113

For whatever reason, if you do **not** know your expiration date, to inquire on same, please e-mail **Michael.Cook@cox.net**; or drop him a note at the above address to get an update on your dues status.

You will also find a membership/information update form at the back of this newsletter (page 12). This form may used to report any address or other changes in your contact information.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 31 January 2011, the treasury had an account balance (rounded) of \$25,500. Although the **Association** is solvent, we have expenses, obligations and bills to pay, such as publishing this reunion package. **So, please pay your dues promptly, or early and often.** Thank you very much.



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*Occasionally, members include modest amounts of money over and above what is required for dues to add to the treasury. **Those donations (NOT DUES) are tax deductible under an IRS ruling for the organization.** Every dollar is much appreciated. We can use the economic stimulus like every other group.*

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THE ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Oh yeah, we got feedback on this one.

After months of diligent work in trying to make it the best directory possible, unfortunately, feces occurs, No amount of proofreading over 900 entries of names, addresses, phone numbers, etc., will catch every typo, and we *mea culpa* on those.

Then, a program command where all the phone area codes were to be in parentheses, hiccupped and randomly put the parens where ever it thought was a three digit area code. That was caught and conveyed to the printer, but too late to 'stop the presses'.

As you can imagine, most comments were some version of: "my information is wrong!!" A more correct term would have been 'outdated'. If members relocate and do not tell us, how can we know? Change is even more prevalent with e-mails as folks drop or change servers, or revise their e-addresses. Roughly, one in fifty members' data needed corrections to some degree.

We need members' help in keeping all the contact info current.

Less than 20 of the packages were returned as undeliverable for a variety of reasons.

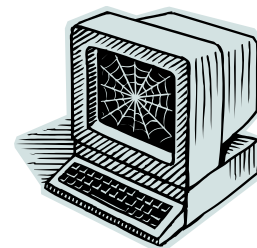
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YOUR 55TH WING ASSOCIATION WEB SITE www.55wa.org

Under the continued technical expertise of Webmeister **Jim Maloney**, the home page is an integral and vital part of the **Association's** line of communications and information. It is where you can keep informed between newsletters, and when news is reported and updated in a more timely manner. Plus, it provides members a forum to keep in touch, learn about current and ongoing **Association** activities, and reference previous projects and/or events.

An increasingly important function is that our internet link to the world provides former **55th** warriors a means to reconnect. It is not uncommon for past **SRW/55th Wing** members, or friends and families, to find our web site after an internet search, and contact with friends and comrades from their days with the Wing.

You are urged to check it out often for timely news, activities and information exchanges. The latest news on upcoming reunions, the Birthday Ball, and other significant events are there. "Mail Room", "Clothing Sales", "Memory Lane", a picture gallery, and links to other associated and interesting sites are included. The site now has an alphabetical, as well as chronological, listing for the TAPS section. It makes it easier to access the names and dates of those who have passed.



GO THERE.



T A P S



COLE, Warren (Pappy) L, 88, died 29 November 2010, Lorton, VA; wife, **Angelica**. Pappy entered the Army Air Corps aviation cadet program in 1942. He piloted B-24s from Italy in WWII. He volunteered for recon in the earliest days of the Cold War and eventually was in a squadron that became part of the **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW)** at Barksdale AFB, LA, in November 1950. The unit also served at Ramey AFB, PR, and Forbes AFB, KS. An authentic strategic recon pioneer, Pappy was inducted into the **Wing** Hall of Fame in 2005.

ELLIOTT, Denver P, 92, 18 May 2010, West Union, OH. A WWII Army Air Corps veteran and another Cold War strategic recon pioneer with the **55th** in the early 1950s.

GUERRERO, Fernando, 84, 15 November 2010, Bellevue, NE. ‘Chief G’ enlisted in the US Army at 17 years in 1942. A WWII vet who moved from Normandy across France and Germany. Later in the USAF, he served in Vietnam, Thailand and at Offutt. At the latter, he was NCOIC of Special Services and managed the Capehart Golf Course until he retired in 1969. He continued in that capacity as a GS employee for 16 more years. His brother-in-law is **Rex Lawson**, a **55th** EWO alum.

GYULAVICS, Dorothy, 86, 28 January 2011, Winter Haven, FL. She was the wife of **Joe** for 65 years. Dottie was the consummate Air Force wife as Joe served in the **55th** at Forbes, and in command capacities in the 343rd SRS at Offutt, at Eielson AFB, AK, and Andersen AFB, Guam. He is a member of the **Association** Board of Directors.

LINT, Mary B (Sue), 86, 22 August 2010, Aurora, CO. She was the widow of **Bob** who passed in 1990; and she served her country as an US Army nurse in WWII.

MAIN, Wilson (Wil) E, 71, 19 January 2011, Beaver Creek, OH; wife, **Nancy**. An EWO in RCs, he had two tours at Eielson AFB, AK; was in CEVG at Barksdale AFB, LA, in between; then served in the SAC Recon Center at Offutt. Wil’s last active duty assignment was in the Big Safari office at Wright Patterson AFB, OH, until he retired in 1984. But he remained in the Big Safari program for many years thereafter.

MCKENZIE, Jerrold L, 76, 9 December 2010, Springfield, NE; wife, **Sally**. Jerry was an EWO in RCs with the **55th SRW** at Offutt in the 1970s. He also had a tour in Vietnam, and as a Missile Test Launch Officer at Vandenburg AFB, CA. His last assignment was squadron commander of the 55th Mission Support Sqd at Offutt. He retired in 1984, then operated a kennel business in Springfield.

PUCHRIK, Augustine S, 91, 3 October 2010, Reston, VA; wife of 62 years, **Dorothy**. A 1945 graduate from West Point, he became a pilot in the USAF. Gus flew Berlin Airlift missions in Germany. An RB-47 AC with the **55th SRW** at Forbes in the late 1950s and early 1960s, he was selected to fly with the Russian crew that brought Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to the US for his infamous meeting at the UN in September 1959. Gus was fluent in Russian (and other languages), and his last AF assignment was as the senior attaché in the US Embassy in Moscow. He retired in 1974.

SMILEY, Rolland Crane, 79, 14 January 2011, Denver, CO. Crane was an RB pilot/AC with the **55th SRW** at Forbes in the 1960s pulling multiple tours to Turkey. After leaving the **55th**, he flew RF-4s in support of the SE Asia effort.

WATERS, Charles E, 86, 4 December 2010, Destin, FL; wife, **Jane**. Chuck entered the service as an aviation cadet in 1943. He flew 30 combat missions as a bombardier from the UK in WWII. He later became an RB-47 EWO at Forbes with the **55th** in the late 1950s and 1960s, retiring in 1969. He was an original member of the foundation committees in 1994, and helped build the current **Association** as its first *defacto* president. He was on the first elected Board of Directors in September 1995 and served until retiring in September 2009. He and Jane were regular fixtures at the reunions helping with check-ins, selling shirts, whatever was needed.

ZEIDLER, Edward P, 89, 9 November 2010, Grand Rapids, MN; wife, **Cleo**. Ed was a WWII pilot who flew B-24s in China and over the Burma “Hump”. He served with the **55th** in the early 1950s at Forbes, and participated as a staff officer at Thule AB, Greenland, for *Operation Homerun*, an early Cold War photo and electronic recon mission of Arctic over-flights against Soviet Russia.

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TAPS notification of **Association** members, spouses, friends and associates taking the Big PCS should be sent to Max Moore, 201 Basswood Court, Bellevue NE, 68005; or e-mail MaxMoore55@aol.com

Please include next of kin and an address to whom the Association condolence card may be sent; date of demise, age, location; and if known, connection to the 55th - base, time and duty. Thank you.

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LETTERS

Max:

I received the newsletter and directory yesterday (*9 Dec 2010*).

You really do a superb job putting this stuff together, and I want to thank you for your efforts. I know how hard it is and how much work it takes, and I am here to tell you I appreciate your effort. It is very professional in each and every respect.

Thank you, and I hope you have a very pleasant Christmas and all your wishes come true. Best of all in the year ahead, as well.

Sincerely, VO, **Buddy (Dean S.) Goddard**, Austin, TX (*Edited from an e-mail, 10 December 2010*)

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Max (and all others involved):

My packet arrived yesterday (*9 Dec 10*), and as others (*have said*), I wish to send my compliments to you and others who have done a great job. Very professional. First class, as always. A far cry from what we had in the earliest days.

I could not help taking a moment to reflect on those early days wherein **Charlie (Waters)**, **Mickey (Schussler)**, **Errol (Hoberman)**, **Sparky (Adams)**, **John Marks**, and others whose names I cannot recall, sat around a table (*at a reunion*) in (*Ft Walton Beach*) Florida, and an organization was reborn. Look at it today as a result of the follow-on efforts of Ernst, Moore, Thomas, Maloney, Hoberman, Griffin, Hoover, plus gobs of others, who have made it into a top-notch, first-class organization. To those whose names I may have left off, please accept my apologies. It was not intentional, but an aging memory problem.

I still can remember (although fuzzy) my running into Bill (*Ernst*) at an Omaha reunion way back when (*1996*), and asking him if he would like to run for the prez's job. Thank goodness he said yes. Follow up his tenure by Jim's (*Thomas*), and we have the best of the best.

Of course we cannot ever disregard the efforts of **Bob Dibbel** and **Bruce Bailey** who were the early on chiefs, and without whose efforts there would not be an **Association**.

I might add that way back when, I stated that if we did not basically domicile our Board in Omaha in order to closely work with the active **55th Wing**, we would fade away. That certainly has not happened, except in the instances of the passing (*of some*) of our members.

The only concern I now have with our group is the (*potential*) dwindling membership due to Mother Nature's intervention, and the (*small number*) of rank and file joiners from the **55th Wing**. *Tempest fugit* though, and there seems to be not much we can do about that.

Nothing is forever, but looking back through the many years we've been together, I feel real proud of what we have accomplished in keeping our history, legacy and exploits in the forefront.

Many, many have contributed in making the **Association** an organization one is proud to be a member of, and my deepest thanks goes out to all who have contributed to our success.

Take a bow, y'all.

VO, **Sam Pizzo**, Mandeville, LA (*Edited from an e-mail, 10 December 2010*)

(Note: Sam was the first elected president of the **Association** under the Articles of Incorporation in 1995 and served until 1996.)

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Editor's usual 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**. Pictures are good. 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

MaxMoore55@aol.com

(Contributions may be,..... well, very likely will be, edited for content, readability, and spacing.)

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ASSOCIATION BX

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ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

These are 'must have' items for the reunions, and they look good on the golf course, for casual Fridays at the office, and any leisure time.

Give a big hint to the family and mayhap some generous loved one will give you one for whatever you have going: Easter, Father's Day, birthday, anniversary, Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Kwanzaa, Chinese New Year, whatever.

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

There are currently two designs available. Both have the dual shield on the left breast, no pocket.

The former design is white with red collar and sleeve trim, navy blue front placket. They are 100% pre-shrunk combed cotton pique. This shirt's **cost remains \$25 per shirt**.

Those shirts are now available only in small and medium as they are being phased out. When they are gone, they are gone.

The **new** all white design is 100% polyester micro pique, moisture-wicking and anti-microbial control; available in sizes medium, large, XL, and XXL. Size 3XL can be ordered if the need arises, Big Fella. **The cost of this version is \$30 each**.

Be sure to state the design and size you want.

The golf/baseball caps are royal blue with the dual shield logo on the front, and an adjustable back strap. **They go for just \$7 each.**

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

There are charges for priority postage to be added to the individual item cost: \$5.35 for one shirt, or one cap; \$10.60 for both a shirt and cap order; \$10.60 for two shirts.

More ways to identify with your **Association** and "show the logo" as appropriate for official, social and casual functions.

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An optimist thinks this is the best world possible. A pessimist fears that is true.

THE ASSOCIATION TIE

The **Association's** '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 the reunion banquets and other appropriate events.



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Anyone desiring to purchase shirts, caps or ties can contact **Larry Utley** at his e-mail OFFWEGO@cox.net; phone: 402-592-6627; or write 2409 Leigh Lane, Papillion, NE 68133. **Checks for the full amount of your order should be made to the 55th Wing Association.**

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55TH FASHION PINS

The pins continue to be sold to **Association** members all over the country. They are particularly evident at official and social functions at Offutt, and at 55th reunions.



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

The **Association** does **not** sell these pins and receives **no** money.

(Shown near actual size.) But, as a service for those who wish to possess same: **Erwin's Jewelers, Frank Kumor**, proprietor, and an **Association** member and supporter, 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 \$4 for shipping.**

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55th FIGHTER GROUP LITHOGRAPH

Regis Urschler commissioned the noted aviation artist **Richard Wong** to do the lithograph, entitled *Guardians of Freedom*. It depicts P-51 and P-38 of the 55th Fighter Group. Regis has donated a limited number of these lithographs to the **55th Wing Association**.

To purchase same: contact Larry Utley at contact info above in the tie blurb.

Costs are: (unframed) basic lithograph, \$60, plus \$8 P&H; (unframed) lithograph numbered and signed (there are nine), \$100 plus \$8 P&H.

Make checks in the full amount payable to **The 55th Wing Association.**



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Always be yourself, because the people who matter don't mind, and the people who mind, don't matter.

REUNIONS

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BIG SAFARI ASSOCIATION



24-28 August 2011

Dallas, TX, Embassy Suites Outdoor World

For full details, agenda and updates go to the web site www.bigsafariassociation.org

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FUTURE 55TH WING ASSOCIATION REUNION



September 2012, Colorado Springs, CO. **Sandy Feldkamp**, chairperson, **Alan** assisting.
Look to the web site www.55wa.org and future issues of the newsletter as details develop.

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B-47 STRATOJET ASSOCIATION



The next B-47 Association Reunion will be held in Tucson, AZ, **1-3 November 2012**.
The host is **Bill Clark**. clark3wl@yahoo.com More information to come as it develops.
The web site is www.b-47.com

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For every action, there in an equal and opposite government program.



Videmus Omnia



55th Wing Association, Inc.

(Formerly – 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

email: _____

Are you a Veteran? Yes No Branch of Service _____ (Dates of Service) _____

Are you a former member of the 55th Strat Recon Wing? _____

When were you a member of the 55th Strat Recon Wing? _____ (Dates of Service) _____



Are you a current or former member of the 55th Wing? _____

When were you a member of the 55th Wing? _____ (Dates of Service) _____



Which 55th Unit(s) were you a member? _____

Are you on active duty? If so, with what unit? _____ Rank _____

What is your present occupation? _____

**Return this form with dues, if applicable
(\$20 per year or \$55 for 3 years)*
to: 55TH WING ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 13165
OFFUTT AFB, NE 68113**

* Note – Expiration date of new members joining after 1 Oct extended to 31 Dec of following year

** Note – Dues expiration date – 31 December



**55th Wing Association Recon Roundup Registration Form
May 18-22, 2011**

Courtyard by Marriott
210 E. Stacy Road
Allen, TX 75002

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION – MAKE A COPY OF THIS FORM AS A REMINDER and
EVENT VERIFICATION**

(Monies will be refunded for events for which you prepay that cannot accommodate you or are canceled)

Please print your name(s) as you would like them to appear on your name tag and events pass

1. _____
2. _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ PHONE (____) _____

E-MAIL _____
ASSOCIATED UNIT and AIRCRAFT: _____

Hotel Reservations: Please call the hotel direct at 1 214-383-1151 or 1 800-321-2211. Reservations can also be made online at Marriott.com <http://cwp.marriott.com/dalan/55wa>. There is also a link from the Association website, www.55wa.org The **55th Wing Association** GROUP rate is \$95.00, plus 13% tax. NOTE: Hotel reservations for the Recon Roundup at the special rate must be made before **May 4, 2011**. Reservations received after **May 4, 2011** will **only** be accepted on a space and rate availability basis. **Group rate includes the breakfast buffet daily in the Courtyard's The Bistro restaurant.**

[] REGISTRATION: Postmarked by May 4, 2011

Number Attending \$105 x _____ = \$ _____

Postmarked after May 4, 2011. Number Attending **\$115** x _____ = \$ _____

Includes: Welcome Packet, Hospitality Suite and Reception w/hors d'oeuvres on Thursday, and the Banquet Saturday night.

Tentative Reunion Schedule:

18 May Early arrival day; Board of Directors meeting 1600-1900

19 May Registration Day; Golf; Evening Reception in Hospitality Suite 1900

20 May Bus tour to L-3 Mission Integration facilities in Greenville (0900-1300); Rudy's Real Texas BBQ 1900

(Optional events)

21 May Membership meeting 0900; Banquet 1900

22 May Departures

Please provide the information requested below so we may provide the best support possible.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION: The hotel does not provide transportation to/from the area airports. Super Shuttle Service provides transport to/from airports. The fare is \$38 per person to/from DFW Intl Airport/Dallas Love Field Airport and the Allen Courtyard Marriott. Reservations are required, so please call Toll Free 877-770-4VAN (4826) or online at <http://supershuttle.shuttlefare.com>.

GO Airport Shuttle Shared Van	Courtyard Marriott Allen, Allen, TX	\$38.00 \$38.00 p/p
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RENTAL CAR: If you plan to rent a car, contact with four major car rental companies has the average total cost of \$112 from DFW/Love Field Thursday thru Sunday for a standard size car.

MODE(S) OF TRAVEL TO BE USED: AIRLINES () RENTAL CAR () POV () SHUTTLE ()

If you have special transportation requirements to/from the hotel on Thursday and Sunday, please indicate here () and provide the arrival/departure information below. We will contact you to coordinate support via phone/email.

ARRIVING BY AIRLINES DFW () LOVE FIELD () AIRLINE/FLIGHT # _____

ARRIVAL DATE/TIME 19 May/_____ DEPARTURE DATE/TIME 22 May/_____

1. [] I am interested in playing golf on Thursday, at an area private club.

Note: If we have sufficient interest, there will be scheduled tee times on mid-morning Thursday. Please contact Greg Smith, lg.smith@tx.rr.com to reserve a slot and specify that you need rental clubs. Greens fees and carts can be paid for at the pro shop.

2. [] Please sign me up for a tour of the L-3 Mission Integration facilities at Majors Field in Greenville, Texas, on Friday morning. This is an outstanding opportunity to see the world class systems integration organization that modernizes and maintains the **55th Wing's** Rivet Joint, Cobra Ball, and Combat Sent aircraft. This event will be a half day and include lunch. ***Transportation cost will be \$30 per person, includes lunch, to be paid for at registration check in for those who sign up.***

Need minimum of 50 people to be viable.

3. [] Please sign me up for Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Que diner on Friday night at the hotel. **\$30 per person.** This is an optional event and the price is not included in the registration fee.

Please make a copy of this registration form and mail the original along with your full payment of registration fee and the bar-b-que, if applicable, to:

55th Wing Association Recon Roundup
c/o Lionel G. Smith, 2412 Creekridge Drive, McKinney TX 75070-7791

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*The following essay was originally passed on from **Bud Morss** and **Don Griffin**, and was published in the August 2002 issue of 'Videmus Omnia'.*

All the specifics may not apply to our group, and the exact tenor of our gatherings, but it captures the essence of any military reunion, and is moving enough to share and savor.

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THE REUNION

By **Rachel Firth**

Autumn leaves rustling, together at the appointed place, the old warriors come. Pilgrims, drifting across the land they fought to preserve. Where they meet is not important anymore. They meet and that's enough for now.

Greetings reach across a lobby. Hands reach out and arms draw buddies close. Embraces, that as young men they were too uncomfortable to give, to shy to accept so lovingly. But, deep within these Indian summer days, they have reached a greater understanding of life and love. The shells holding their souls are weaker now, but hearts and minds grow vigorous, remembering.

On a table, someone spreads old photographs, a test of reflection. Friendly laughter echoes at shocks of hair gone gray or white,or gone. The rugged, slender bodies lost forever. Yet they no longer need to prove their strength. Some are now sustained by one of those "medical miracles", and even in this fact, they manage to find humor.

The women, all those who waited, all those who loved them, have watched the changes take place. Now, they observe and listen, and smile at each other, as glad to be together as the men.

The talk turns to war and planes and g=foreign lands. Stories are told and retold again, reweaving the threadbare fabric of the past. Mending one more time the banner of their youth. They hear the vibrations, feel the shudder of metal as engines whine and whirl, and planes come to life. These birds with fractures wings can be seen beyond the mist of clouds, and they are I the air again, chasing the wind, feeling the exhilaration of the flight close to the heavens.

Dead comrades, hearing their names spoken, wanting to share in the time, if only in spirit, move silently among them. Their presence is felt and smiles appear beneath misty eyes. Each in his own way may wonder who will be absent in another year.



Reno September 2009

