

Videmus Omnia

55th WING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Heartland.

Winter has arrived here. The frigid air finally has pushed down to Nebraska. Spring time will be just around the corner...we hope.



For sure, the 55th Wing Birthday Ball is just around the corner. We can count on that and another great Heritage Week in the 55th Wing. Come and visit old friends here in Omaha and stay for the Ball. It will be another

celebration to remember.

For all 55th veterans and their friends who do come to the Ball, the 55th "Speak Easy" will again be open at the Embassy Suites. Open 1500 Saturday afternoon 'til the Ball starts, and open again post Ball 'til midnight, or whenever. 55th veterans and friends welcomed. Room number? Ask around. You'll find it.

Membership becomes a hot topic this time of the year. The numbers are in. That is, to those who have forgotten to re-up, we will be sending out reminders. Those who are overdue at the beginning of the year, will receive this newsletter; but, will become delinquent after 31 March 2012, and we will not do mail-outs after that date. Please keep your dues up. We treasure your loyalty.

I need to give you the status of a project that was suggested to me during the reunion at Allen, TX. The purpose of the project is to have a downloadable file on our web site depicting the Hall of Fame award to the 55th Spouse, Past, Present and Future. The suggestion was to make it possible to

download the picture and citation on the award so that those elements could be made available to any of the spouses/awardees. I have been able to obtain the professional assistance needed, pro bono. Still have a few technical details to work, but can see the end of the project soon.

Enough from me for now. You have another informative newsletter to dig into.

Enjoy your spring and summer. Hope to rally with many in C-Springs this September.

Be safe and healthy, and get lucky while you are at it.

Videmus Omnia, Jim



The 55th WING ASSOCIATION ROCKY MOUNTIAN REUNION

5-9 SEPTEMBER 2012

CROWNE PLAZA

Colorado Springs, CO.



It will soon be time to head to beautiful Colorado Springs and join your 55th friends for our 29th Reunion, so mark your calendars and make plans now!

The **Crowne Plaza Hotel**, located at 2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO, 80906 will be reunion HQ. **You will want to make you reservations soonest.** Contact the hotel at www.cpcoloradosprings.com or ph: 719 302-9871

(direct) to make your room reservations. The special reunion rate is \$109, so let them know you are coming for the **55th Reunion**. If you'd like, they can extend the rate so you can come to visit early and maybe stay later to see the aspen trees in full color, among other scenic sights.

We recommend checking out the hotel's web site. You can view its décor, facilities and many amenities.



Reunion chairs, and your hosts for the gathering, **Sandy and Alan Feldkamp** have worked diligently to plan another in the continuing series of memorable conclaves.



The registration for the reunion will include a reception on Thursday, breakfast buffets on Friday and Saturday, and dinner on Friday and Saturday, plus the hospitality room.

Plans are in process for other activities to include optional tours. There will be golf if there are enough who want to play, and of course, lots of stories, fellowship, and camaraderie.

The detailed registration package, costs and form will be available on the web site in the future, and in the next newsletter (May?). Be sure to check www.55wa.org often for updates. We will have tour selections and pricing in the registration package.

If you have any ideas that you would like us to consider, please let us know at the **55th** web site or at **sandyfeldkamp@hotmail.com**

The planned (tentative) week's agenda is: Wednesday, 5 September, early arrivals/registration and the Board of Directors Meeting. Thursday, 6 Sept, registration open, hospitality room and reception, Iron Springs Melodrama with dinner. Friday, 7 Sept, breakfast buffet; events at the Air Force Academy, dinner at the hotel.

Saturday, 8 Sept, breakfast buffet, **membership meeting**, optional tours of the Cog Railroad to the summit of Pikes Peak; or Garden of the Gods with a stop at The Trading Post. Dinner banquet with a cash bar. Sunday, breakfast on your own and departure.

Plan now to be there and enjoy the usually great Colorado weather, location, gathering of generations of 55th's. It will be a memorable time and one you will not want to miss it.



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Sam Pizzo, Bill Ernst, Errol Hoberman, Don Griffin, Fox Censullo, George Ross, Dennis Haun, Pete Glenboski, Larry Utley, Don Kelly.
Active Duty: LtCols Mohan Krishna and Paul Rehome.

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Elvio Palmieri

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Elivo13@comcast.com

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of 31 January 2012, the **Association** had 673 members **in good standing**. This is a decrease of three from the 31 December **2010** annual report.

In July 2011 a ‘friendly reminder’ letter was sent to members whose dues had expired in December 2010 (and who were dropped from the rolls 1 April) urging their return. Most of them did renew their memberships.

(FYI: the states with the most members rank as follows: Nebraska, 139; Texas, 80; California, 58; Florida, 50. We have members in the Pacific area, Europe, DC and every state but Alaska, North Dakota and Wyoming. Go figure.)

Regrettably, any member whose dues **expired on 31 December 2011 will be taken off** the member-in-good-standing roll **effective 1 April 2012 (unless dues are updated before then)**, and will no longer receive the newsletter or other **Association** correspondence. Pity.

As of 31 January 2012, that number stands at 191. Those folks should receive a ‘friendly reminder’ letter.

Approximately 170 widows of former members receive the newsletter, and are welcome to participate in any and all **Association** activities.

Additionally, 39 wing units and associated units receive the newsletters as a public relations gesture.

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WHEN DO MY DUES EXPIRE?

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**

Membership comes due each January. It is hoped/expected that those of you who have yet to renew your dues will do so soon. If your dues expired in 2011, now is the time to renew.

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Please remit dues to **55th Wing Association** as soon as practical for this and 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 dues 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 membership status.

Please keep us informed of any changes in your address or other contact information. Invariably we get returned mail because of outdated addresses. **Please help us stay current.**

We plan to publish an updated **Association** directory after the reunion this year, so it is **vital that we have your most current contact information.**

You will find a membership/information update form at the back of this newsletter (page 17), as well as on the Association web site.

We respectfully request that the form be used when paying dues, and/or to report any address or other changes in your contact information.

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TREASURER’S REPORT

As of 31 January 2012, the treasury had a balance (rounded) of \$33,000. Although the **Association** is solvent, there are expenses, obligations and bills to pay. **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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ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATES IN OFFUTT RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

At a meeting with Colonel Andrea Tullos, 55th Wing Mission Support Group (MSG) Commander, in early October, with President Jim Thomas and Board member LtCol Mo Krishna, the 55th MSG Deputy Commander, the colonel suggested that the Association have a display at the annual base Retiree Appreciation Day on Sunday, 16 October.

This event has been held for several years at Offutt AFB, and although many military veterans groups (such as MOAA, VFW, AFA, et al) are represented, this was a first for our organization.

Thomas readily accepted to see what impact the exposure might have for the Association. On the appointed date, he and Max Moore manned a table for about three hours. The results were spotty with some folks stopping out of curiosity or general interest. There were inquiries and chats with several people picking up newsletters and membership forms.

Interestingly enough, among those who did take forms and pledged to sign up were a few active duty, senior wing staffers.

The Board will discuss and evaluate the overall results of the effort and determine if is worthwhile to participate every year.

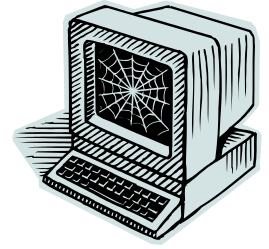
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YOUR 55TH WING ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

www.55wa.org

Under the technical expertise of Webmeister Jim Maloney, the home page continues to be an

integral and vital part of the Association's line of communications. It is where one can keep informed between newsletters, and where news is reported and updated in a real-time 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 55th SRW/55th Wing members, or friends and families, to find our web site after an internet search, and reengage friends and comrades from their days with the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

You are urged to check it out often for timely news, activities and information exchanges. The latest news on reunions, the Birthday Ball, and other significant events are there. "Mail Room", "Clothing Sales", "Memory Lane", a crew and aircraft picture gallery, and links to other associated and interesting sites are included.

The site has an alphabetical, as well as chronological, listing for the TAPS section. That makes for easier research access to the names and dates of those in the 55th family who have passed.

As a convenience, there is an updated layout depiction (*not an actual photo*) of the brick patio at the 55th SRW Cold War Monument at the Memorial Gardens of the National Museum of the Air Force near Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. It can be checked out for the location of your brick, or others, in preparation for any visit there; or just so you know.

NEW FEATURES

In its evolution, the web site has added applications.

There is a new link depicting history and heritage videos for your edification, should you be so interested.

Also, in keeping with the Association's philosophy of 'leaning forward in the straps', we now have our own presence on the social networking phenomenon, *Facebook*.

You can view our *Facebook* page by going directly to www.facebook.com/55thAssociation, or you can connect from the link on the front page of

the web site. There is also a link on the *Facebook* page to return you to our web site.

We encourage you to view the page, to 'like' the page, and share your thoughts ('status') with us on your 'wall'.

Explore the site at your leisure -- for example on the left side of the page you can find areas such as the 'wall', 'info', 'insights', 'photos', and 'about'. **Become a "Facebook friend" and you will be among the first to be notified when new information is added to the page.**

Our goal is to have every **Association** member 'like' the page, become a 'friend', contribute to the page, and suggest others to do the same. It all helps to enhance the **Association's** profile. For example one of the early weeks we were 'on-line', our *Facebook* page reached 68 people.

Just one more way to "get the word out" about who we are and what the **Association** does to support the **55th Wing**.

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Reminder to all: We migrated to our current web site address www.55wa.org at the same time that we changed our organization's name to the **55th Wing Association**. We have maintained the former web site address (www.55srwa.org) since then to allow folks time to learn the new address and modify their 'favorites' lists. However, it's time to cut the link (very soon) to the old address. So, henceforth be sure to use www.55wa.org.

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ANNUAL 55th WING BIRTHDAY BALL

The **55th Wing** will hold its 34th annual Birthday Ball, **Saturday, March 31, 2012** at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in LaVista. The gala event is open to all active duty ranks and civilian members of the wing, retirees, and by invitation to local dignitaries.

The Ball is the Wing's largest annual formal social function. Last year over 800 people attended, including many alumni and **Association** members. The event will be hosted by **BrigGeneral Donald Bacon**, **55th Wing** Commander, and his wife, **Angela**.

The Birthday Ball was originated by then-Colonel (now, BrigGen-Retired) **Regis F. A.**

Urschler, commander of the **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing**, in January 1979. His idea was to connect the wing's heritage to the active duty personnel and missions. That tradition continues today.

The Ball celebrates the 71th anniversary of the unit from its roots in the activation of the **55th Pursuit Group** at Hamilton Field, CA, in January 1941, during World War II. Then its heritage through the **55th Reconnaissance Group**, which stood up at MacDill Field, FL, in Strategic Air Command in February 1947; the **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing** from 1950 to 1992, at Barksdale AFB, LA; Ramey AFB, PR; Forbes AFB, KS; and at Offutt AFB, NE, up to the present.



This year's theme is "*Three Generations of Integrity, Excellence, Service*" recognizing the storied history of the Wing, and the men and women who performed, and continue to execute, the many and varied missions the Wing operates worldwide in support of both peacetime and in the war on terrorism.

Captain Stan Montoya of the **55th Strategic Communications Squadron** leads the Ball Committee made up of personnel from a cross-section of the Wing's units. **Captain Megan Kessen** of the **45th RS** is the vice chairman.

Max Moore and Bill Ernst continue to represent the **Association** on the committee as senior advisors. The **Association** donates \$1000 every year to help defray the costs for younger airmen to attend the event.

General Ronald R. Fogleman (USAF Retired) is this year's guest speaker. General Fogleman

served as Air Force Chief of Staff from October 1994 thru August 1997 when he retired.

Dave Webber, a well-known personality from WOW-TV in Omaha, will again act as the master of ceremonies for the event. Mr. Webber served in the Air Force at Offutt with the SAC Elite Guard before starting his broadcast career.

Other items on the program include appropriate military ceremonies; introduction of new members of the **55th Wing Hall of Fame**; presentation of the **55th SRW Association Award for Excellence**; and the traditional cutting of the birthday cake by the wing commander, a senior member in attendance, and the youngest member of the Wing. There will be dancing to the *Raptor*, a nine-piece versatile ensemble of the Heartland of American Band, after the ceremonies to wind up the evening.

Accommodations at the Embassy Suites are available at a **special rate of \$119**, plus taxes and fees. For reservations for Friday or Saturday, call 402-331-7400, mention **the code 55W, or 55th Wing Birthday Ball**, to get the event rate. To get the special rate, reservations must be made **not later than March 1**.

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Tales of the 55th

The thirteenth edition of an additional event associated with the Ball and Heritage Week, takes place **Friday, 30 March**, in the CMSAF James M. McCoy Airmen Leadership School. Doors open at 1500 for informal socializing and viewing of heritage and history display. Then at 1630, veterans of various periods of the Wing's history will relate their personal experiences. The event is co-sponsored by the **Association**, the Lemay Flight, Order of Dadaelians, and the Strategic Roost of the Association of Old Crows. It is coordinated and emceed by Jim Thomas, president of the **55th Wing Association**.

General Folgeman has been invited and is receptive to attending.

It is well attended by the senior wing staff and active duty troops, and has grown in each of the years it has been presented. This event is a must for out-of-towners who come to attend the Ball. It is informal, and eats and beverages will be available. A \$4 donation will be collected at the door to cover refreshments.

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Hall of Fame

The Selection Committee did its duty and chose **Colonel Joseph W. Siniscalchi**, USAF, retired, as the inductee for 2012, the 61st honoree.

Joe is recognized for his distinguished career in the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifty* as a crewmember, squadron commander, detachment commander and operations group; plus, with other units that supported the RC-135 operations and **55th** missions.

The induction ceremony will take place on Friday afternoon, 30 March, and he will be presented at the Wing Birthday Ball the following evening.

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COLORADO SPRINGS GROUP **Second Edition**

The second annual gathering of **55th** alums in the Colorado Springs/Denver area took place on 23 July 2011 at the Fox Run Park near CSprings in near perfect weather.

Kermit Neal was the driver for the event, and as the word spreads, he hopes it will grow in numbers each year.

The fare was BBQ, assorted goodies, and beverages with heavy sides of crewdog stories and reminiscences.

Al Feldkamp gave a briefing on the **55th Wing Association Reunion** to be held in CSprings in September 2012. He and Sandy will be chairing that gathering.

(Note: In the photo below, Al is the only one wearing the appropriate Association polo.)



Pictured - Left to right (sort of): **Mace Macelhaney, Jack Carson, Kenny Dailey** (alias: *The Green Lantern*), **Rick Smith** (front), **Stuart Aldridge, Neal Vickery, Kerm Neal** (with goatee), **Kaleb Neal** (future crewdog, in front of Dad), **Ben Landers, Mark Castellani, Al Feldkamp, Ron Machoian, Barney Ballinger.**

'Nother Note: There are many more 55th alumni in that area, so next year, plan on attending so you too can be in the picture and the newsletter. If you are interested in joining the group, get on Kerm's list at Kermit.Neal@northcom.mil.

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VIRGINIA 'CHAPTER'

The East Coast / Pentagon 'Chapter' (unincorporated, of course) of the **55th Wing Association** held its second annual Bullpen Bar-B-Que and gathering at a Potomac Nationals baseball game on 13 August 2011. The Potomac Nationals are a minor league farm club of the Washington Nationals. They play their home games in the Woodbridge/Lake Ridge area of Prince William County in Northern Virginia.

Forty-seven former **55th** members and family attended the event. The Saturday evening gathering started with an all-you-can-eat BBQ. The Potomac Nationals have a picnic area for groups in the right field corner of Pfitzner Stadium, a great place to have a gathering and engage in camaraderie.



One highlight of the BBQ, was the presentation of a signed baseball to the organizer of the event, me (*Ricky Mac*). **George Barth** (former 38th nav) brought a baseball and had all the former **55th**ers sign it. I have proudly replaced a baseball on a trophy stand I received from my select travel team players during my coaching days in Papillion, NE. The new ball is now displayed in a place of honor.

After the presentation of the "*Legends of the 55th*" baseball, the National Anthem was played and we took our seats in the Reserved Section 7 behind the third-base dugout for the game. Unfortunately, it started to sprinkle in the fourth inning, and then a light steady rain in the fifth inning, which drove some of the crowd to their cars. A few of the **55th**ers called it a night, but the majority stuck it out to the end of the game.

The talk of the stadium during our event was the prior night's sell out for the fans to watch a rehab start of the Washington Nationals' phenom, Steven Strasburg. So, we missed having a media zoo all around us by one night and ended up in wet shirts but not dampened spirits. As per custom after all Saturday night games, a fireworks display capped off the evening.

The management of the ball team presents group outings with a Potomac Nationals baseball cap with

"Group Leader" embroidered on the back. Last year,

Larry Mitchell had the honor of wearing that cap home.



This year, I presented the cap to **Bo Marlin** (with *Barth, above. Nice shirt, Bo.*)

All in all, the event was another successful event of reminiscing about the days and sorties of yesteryear by the **Association's** East Coast/Pentagon 'Chapter' members.

Those who attended were: **Bo and Ann Marlin, George Barth, Buz and Nancy Carpenter, Dennis and Marsha Gillon, Bill and Ann Stranberg, Col Bruce and Sue Mundie, Lt Col Tom and Nancy Nicholson, Maj MarCinda and Steve Buttie, Col Bill and Kipsy Gould, Col Kevin and Elisa Coyne, John Rued, Mike Griffin, Rich and Gail Blecher, Charlie Mathews,** and of course, the organizer, **Ricky McMahon** and wife **Cary**.

Article and photos contributed by McMahon, Association Vice President, Nokesville, VA.

(Note: Ricky Mac has organized gatherings in the DC/VA area for several years.)

*When everything is coming your way,
you are in the wrong lane.*

It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.

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82nd HERITAGE RUG IS RETURNED

The fabled 82nd SRS rug has been returned to its rightful home at Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan.

The unofficial caricatured squadron emblem was designed by the deft hand of copilot **Dave Connaughton** when he served in the 82nd, 1969-70. It depicts "Hoggy", leather helmet, goggles, and scarf adorned, perched upon a torii gate grasping his martini glass.

Nancy Allemand, then the wife of 82nd navigator **Ken Allemand** in the early 1970s, fabricated a hook-rug with **that** emblem in all its glory. Ken maintained custody of the rug, and after the squadron was deactivated for a period of years.

In January 1999 a group of 82nd veterans went on a Caribbean Reunion Cruise, and Ken and **Ellie**, his second wife, brought along the rug. That symbol served as the centerpiece of the reunion group photo. Ken died in 2005 in Louisiana, and Ellie subsequently and graciously offered to return the rug to the 82nd veterans.

Lt Col (now Col-sel) Todd Daniel (*who is married to Michelle (nee' McBride), who was born on Okinawa in 1968 to Charles and Lexy McBride*) was serving as outgoing commander of today's 82nd RS, had returned to Offutt for a **55th Wing** commanders' conference in early November 2011. He was accompanied by **LtCol Alan Dayton**, the 82nd operations officer who was slated to become the new squadron commander on 17 November 2011.

This was the perfect occasion for 82nd veterans to return the rug to the squadron's custody for display in the 82nd Heritage Room at Kadena.

The pictured 82nd veterans regaled Todd and Alan with tales of life in those long ago days. All agreed that we were very fortunate to have been a part of such a grand Air Force heritage.

Article contributed by Association Historian Robb Hoover



L to R: LtCol Todd Daniel, John Johnson, Robb Hoover, Ham Kennedy, Jim Maloney, Max Moore, and LtCol Alan Dayton. Offutt Patriot Club, 3 Nov 11)

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RAF COMMANDER VISITS THE 55TH WING

Air Chief Marshal Sir Simon Bryant, Royal Air Force commander-in-chief, Air Command, (*US four star equivalent*), second-highest ranking man in the RAF, visited Offutt on 28 November 2011 to get a close look at how the **55th Wing** is providing RC-135V/W Rivet Joint (RJ) initial qualification training to his fellow airmen.

As the sole provider of RJ initial qualification training, the **55th** was tasked to train RAF crewmen and maintenance personnel after an agreement was made between the US Department of Defense and the UK Ministry of Defence that allows the RAF to purchase three RJ aircraft over the next seven years. The RAF anticipates delivery of their first RC-135W in late 2013. The aircraft is known as *Airseeker* by the RAF.

The **55th** expects to continue training RAF personnel until then. "Seeing the training first-hand leaves me very, very excited," Bryant said. "I can't wait for 2013."

The **55th** began training the Brits in January 2011. More than 60 completed training by the end of 2011. Upon graduating from the program, RAF members fly on US RC-135s, called co-manning with US crews, until the UK's RC-135 fleet reaches full operational capability.

"It's great to have this partnership with our best allies," said Brig. Gen. Donald Bacon, **55th Wing**

commander. "We've learned a lot working with them, so it is mutually beneficial."

"(The US military) has always been the most fantastic and generous of professional teammates," Bryant said. "It's been even more evident over the past 20 years or so, since we've been conducting operations together in various locations around the world."

"The RAF has been wonderful hosts to us in the UK for decades," Bacon said, "so we at Offutt feel honored to return some of that hospitality to our great friends."

*Edited from a December article by **Ryan Hansen**, Chief, 55th Wing Public Affairs*



*RAF Air Chief Marshal Bryant presents BGen Bacon with a model of the Nimrod R1 which is retired by the RAF. (AF photo by **Jeff Gates**)*

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WING INITIATES OLMSTEAD-MCKONE TROPHY

The 55th Wing has established a 'squadron of the year' award. It was named the **Olmstead-McKone Trophy** after two historic figures from the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Cold War days. Copilot **Bruce Olmstead** and Navigator **John McKone** were survivors of an RB-47H shoot down by a Soviet MiG on 1 July 1960 in an unprovoked attack over international waters of the Barents Sea.

*Four other members of that crew perished: Aircraft Commander **Willard Palm** and the raven team of **Oscar Goforth**, **Dean Phillips** and **Eugene Posa**. All six are members of the Wing's Hall of Fame.*

Olmstead and McKone were subsequently picked up at sea and spent the next seven months in the notorious Lubyanka prison in Moscow. They

*were released in January 1961 as a gesture to new President **John F. Kennedy**. They were also featured on the cover of TIME magazine.*

The inaugural award presentation was made at the Wing's annual awards banquet on 3 February 2012. The winner was the 55th Maintenance Squadron (MXS), Major **Frank Shifflet** commanding.



*LtGen **Frank Gorenc** (left), 3rdAF Commander, presents Major **Shifflet** a plaque commemorating the squadron of the year, while **SMSgt Becker**, 55th MXS superintendent, holds the permanent trophy. Also pictured are **BGen Bacon** (center), and **CMSgt Suzan Sangster**, Wing Command Chief.*

(The basic article was gleaned from the Offutt AFB web site, then expanded and edited.)

*(USAF Photo by **Josh Plueger**)*

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TAPS



CASELTON, (Shirley) Jean, 82, 6 November 2011, Carrollton, IL; widow of **Paul**, who passed in 1974. He was a WWII veteran and an RB-47 navigator with the 55th SRW at Forbes AFB, KS, 1954-62.

She was active in her church, singing in the choir and playing organ; enjoyed golf, bridge, and bowling. Jean and her daughter **Sue** have been faithful reunion attendees

for many years.

COBB, Thomas (TC), 71, 11 October 2011, Biloxi, MS; wife, **Ann**. A retired master sergeant, TC was at Offutt in the 2ACCS. He also had tours with the 4th and 10th ACCS at Ellsworth AFB, SD, and RAF Mildenhall, UK.

D'ORVILLIERS, Lawrence (Larry), 12 February 2012, Thonotosassa, FL. (*Only info available at press time.*)

ENGLISH, Robert E. (Bob), 75, 28 September 2011, Papillion, NE; wife of 50 years, **Judy**. Bob was a long time 55th navigator beginning in RB-47s at Forbes AFB, KS (his home state) in the 1960s. He moved with the Wing into RC-135s to Offutt in 1967; then went to Kadena AB, Okinawa, and returned to the 55th until he retired in 1980.

GIFFORD, Donald R., 87, 24 November 2011, Fremont, NE; wife, **Fern**. A member of *The Greatest Generation* of WWII veterans, Don flew P-51s in Europe with the 343rd Sqd of the 55th Fighter Group.

As often as he could, he attended events at Offutt, such as reunions and the annual *Tales*. Don also represented his WWII unit as the ceremonial cake cutter at three recent Wing Birthday Balls. He is pictured



here with **BGen John Shanahan**, then Wing commander, in April 2010.

GILLMOUR, Louis B, Jr., 85, 31 August 2011, Flower Mound, TX; wife, **Yu Suk**. Lou flew combat as a bomb/nav in Korea. He subsequently served in the 55th at Forbes as an RB-47 nav during the mid- to late 1950s until about 1961. He went to B-52s and flew combat missions in Viet Nam in 1968, and was a staff planner for B-52 raids during Linebacker II in 1972.

HANLEY, Thomas H., 83, 15 November 2011, Pasadena, TX; wife of 61 years, (**Pauline**) **Polly**. Tom's time with the 55th SRW was as an RB-47 navigator at Forbes in the late 1950s, early 1960s. He had a tour in Vietnam and retired in 1968. He then worked for Boeing at NASA in Houston as a safety engineer for the space shuttle program.

HARROP, Steve J., 77, 22 September 2011, Papillion, NE. A bomber nav by trade, he also flew in the SR-71 at Beale AFB, CA. He served in the 55th Command Post in the early 1980s, then was the detachment commander at Athena AB, Greece, for two years. He was a member of the SAC IG at Offutt before retiring.

KOZLEK, Jerry, 68, 21 January 2012, Mildenhall, United Kingdom; wife, **Brenda**. Chief (Ret) Kozlek was a valued member of the 95RS working as a contractor under the Big Safari program supporting the 95th and the 488IS at RAF Mildehall and NAS Souda Bay. He was TDY at Souda Bay when he passed. Jerry was inducted into the 55th Wing Hall of Fame in 2001 for his superior contributions to the unit.

LEGARD, Leo C., 93, 25 April 2011, San Jose, CA. A WWII vet, he joined the Army Air Corps in 1940. He flew C-47s ferrying personnel and equipment in the European theater, including support during the Battle of the Bulge delivering fuel for General Patton's tanks. Leo was an RB-47 A/C at Forbes from early 1954 until June 1965 when he retired. He then became an electronics technician working for a number of companies and finally, the USPS in the Palo Alto and San Francisco area until 1979.

MOLSTAD, Gordon R., 93, 22 July 2011, Atwater, CA; wife, **Erna**. A native Canadian, he enlisted in the US Army in February 1941, and later went to OTS. After a break in service, he was recalled for the Korean conflict. His time with the 55th SRW was as an RB-47 EWO at Forbes in the late 1950s, early 1960s. He retired in 1966 and ran an almond farm and was involved in Atwater community and social programs for many years.

MUTUAL, Eugene, 87, 15 September 2011, Victor, NY; wife, **Roberta**. A B-17 pilot near the end of WWII, Gene mustered out, but was recalled for Korea. He came to the 55th SRW at Forbes in 1955 as an RB-47 pilot for about ten years.

REDMAN, John C., 80, 5 October 2011, Biloxi, MS; wife, **Dellanor**. An Ohio native, John came into the Air Force in 1954. He was an EWO in RB-47s in the 55th at Forbes circa 1957-65. He retired in 1975.

RYLAND, Opal M., 70, 20 December 2011, Auburn, AL. Very active in her church and community, she is survived by husband **Keith**, who flew with the 2ACCS at Offutt in the late 1970s.

SUTTER, Helen B., 81, 9 December 2010, Fairfield, CA; wife of **Fred** for 61 years (*see next*). She was a committed volunteer to church, many organizations and causes. An avid gardener and collector, she was also a dedicated archivist. Helen

started and/or maintained historical records for every activity in which she participated.

SUTTER, Fred, 87, 25 May 2011, Fairfield, CA. A native of St Louis, he entered the service in 1944 and trained as a navigator/bombardier. He served in the **55th** in RB-50s in the mid-1950s. Fred later retired from Travis AFB, CA, in 1965, then had a second career as an appraiser for Solano County, CA.

TROMP, William J., 64, 28 December 2011, Papillion, NE; wife **Nancy**. Bill served in the **55th** at Offutt as a COBRA BALL raven. He later was in USSTRATCOM/J23, and after retiring worked as government civilian who continued to contribute to efforts in the Intell Surveillance Recon community.

WALLER, Maralene J., 80, 24 January 2012, Tulsa, OK. She was the widow of **Robert**, an RB-47 pilot at Forbes in the early 1950s, who passed 2 May of last year. Following her life as an AF wife, she became a flight attendant for Continental Airlines for 20 years retiring in 2002.

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MAIL 'N STUFF

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Hello, Max, **George Back, Bruce Bailey, Harris Blount, Bill Crossland, Hank Dubuy, Ron Knecht, "Robey" Robeson, Walt Savage, Jim Taylor, Don Thomas, Reggie U,** and of course, **Frank Hicks**, and to any others still around who may care.

Although I always regarded myself as a fighter pilot temporarily assigned to SAC, and indeed, I am probably the only **55th** pilot to exceed mach 2.3 in other than a recon bird.

Many, if not most, of my earliest and best Air Force memories surround my assignments, deployments, friends and great times from Forbes in 1965 through Offutt in 1966, and at Eielson (6thSW Staff Ops Officer) in 1969-72. Had a SEAsia tour in

1968-69 with compliments of a waiver by SAC of the security stuff.

As I read the July newsletter, many of those times paraded back through what's left of my memory. Patti and I had some fun reminiscing about some great folks and times. I did (*notice*) familiar names from the (*Texas reunion*) attendee list and would appreciate it if you could forward a fond 'hello' to them.

Patti and I are planning to drive up to the Colorado Springs gathering (*September 2012*) in our 2010 white Corvette. Interestingly, we were driving a 1984 white Corvette when we attended the reunion in Las Vegas (*April 1991*).

I have developed some health issues of late, but am pulling through pretty well. The newsletter cheered me up considerably, Max.

THANKS! **Craig Hutzler**, Las Vegas, NV
(From an e-mail of 15 August 2011)

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Max:

I graduated in Class 49A Pilot Training (the second class in the Air Force.) I chose McGuire AFB, NJ, as the base I wanted. I wanted to be a fighter pilot and was headed to (*Williams AFB, AZ*) after basic training. But because a squadron of Turkish cadets said they all had to go to fighters because they didn't have any multi-engine aircraft in the Turk air force, my orders were changed.

The assignment I put in for, and got, when I graduated from Barksdale AFB, LA, multi-engine school was to McGuire and a TAC unit that was flying B-26s and F-82s (Two F-51s put together as a twin-engine fighter.) However, when I got there, (*that unit*) was leaving and SAC had moved in with B-29s. This was February of 1949. I thought that I would move with TAC, but my orders were changed (*again*) and I ended up in SAC as a co-pilot on B-29s.

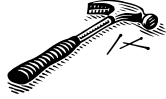
This was the 91st Strat Recon Wing, Col **Steed** was the Wing Commander. I was in the 324th Strat Recon Squadron. Major **Roger Howard** was the CO and **P. J. Hamm** was the Operations Officer.

The majority of the officers were (*mature*) first lieutenants. I might add that the Army Air Force had stopped pilot training at the end of the war, and we were the first second lieutenant pilots they had seen in some years. Five of us had come to McGuire and we were a rare group.

The Air Force was pretty chaotic at this time because it hadn't been a separate service for very long. McGuire was an Army air field at Fort Dix and had been closed since the end of the war. It had all WWII buildings and was in really bad shape.

Living Conditions

My BOQ room was a small unpainted room. It had one light bulb in the ceiling and a GI cot. Nothing else. When I went back to the BOQ Office and complained that there was no place to hang my clothes, the sergeant handed me a hammer and some nails and said that I could pound them in the wall and hang my clothes there. While I was there, I hung my clothes on the nails and lived out of a foot locker.



On the weekends and holidays the base was practically deserted. The only people on the base on then were the single officers and enlisted men, and anyone who had (*assigned*) duty.

There was absolutely no (*available*) housing at McGuire, and none nearby off-base. People were lucky to get housing in Trenton or Philadelphia. The Army had them all tied up.

My first flight in a B-29 was with **George Doll's** crew. I was the co-pilot. I had never been to B-29 school and knew nothing about a B-29. Doll briefed me just before takeoff on where the gear and flap switches were, and also where the switch to jettison the bomb bay tank was. The mission was a long- range one, 15+ hours, and we carried a 2250 gallon bomb bay tank in the rear bomb bay.

Doll told me that we would be using the entire runway on takeoff and that if we lost an engine, we would need to jettison the tank. He said that if he called to jettison the tank, I was to push the switch and hold it because if the tank failed to go out or got hung up, we'd crash.

My next flight was with 1Lt **Robert Marshall**. It was a standboard crew and he didn't have a co-pilot. Apparently he thought I was pretty good because I stayed on his crew until I got checked out as an A/C in RB-50s at Ramey AFB, PR. I said that the AF was chaotic back then. Two flights and I'm a standboard co-pilot!

Our mission at McGuire was to train electronic counter measure (ECM) observers and outfit the B-29 with ECM equipment. Apparently the AF had

recalled, or found people with some ECM knowledge. A lot of them were kind of 'geeky'. They didn't really wear their uniforms properly and had the college professor look about them.

55th Roots

In the beginning, the ECM positions were the left and right scanners. They were also going out on the war surplus markets and buying back some of the gear they needed that had been dumped at the end of the war. This was the start of (*what would become*) the 55th (SRW).

A side note to the ECM observers. They could only be on flying status for three months at a time because they weren't rated then. The powers-that-be solved this by recalling a lot of pilots at the beginning of the Korean War and sending them through ECM school. They used their pilot rating to fly as EWOs. Yet, they still had to maintain their pilot proficiency.

Eventually, (*the ravens*) got the electronic warfare officer (EWO) rating. Any of the pilots who wanted to could go back to primarily piloting.

My first Raven 1 was **Harold Hackenberger**. Hal then moved up and became my co-pilot in RB-50s, and then in RB 47s. I think we were together for 8 or 9 years.

I know that it was the 91st SRW; however, most of the personnel at McGuire went to Barksdale AFB, LA, and into the 55th. Many of the crews, maintenance personnel, etc., also remained the same. Then, we went to Ramey with Howard as the CO and Hamm, the ops officer. When we finally ended up at Forbes AFB, KS, and Howard was **still** the CO and Hamm the ops officer.

So, if one looks at the outfit from the personnel standpoint, the 55th's mission started at McGuire in November of 1948. The difference was that the unit designation (*and mission*) changed later.

This is, maybe, more than you wanted to know, but it's fun recalling the old times.

George Penfield, Shreveport, LA

(*From an e-mail, 15 August 2011*) *History writ large from a true strat recon pioneer. Thanks, George. Max.*

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Max:

While at the (*National*) USAF Museum today, I checked out the bookstore and found a stack of postcards with the RB-47H, tail number 4299,

picture (poised on the ramp outside the museum) on them. Also, there's a DVD with a video tour of the museum and the picture on the cover is the RB-47H in the Museum.

Jack Kovacs, Fairborne, OH.
(From an e-mail, 6 December 2011)

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More evidence from Jack that the Museum must have a love affair with the Cold War centerpiece:

In the 2011-2012 Winter issue of the National Museum of the USAF's "Friends Journal" (just out to Museum members), are several pictures of the RB-47H. The *Journal* is published every couple of months and is included with a membership to the USAF Museum Foundation.

There are pictures of the H model in an article about a B-47 incident (not related to the H); another shot of an H refueling; one of 299 on the ramp at the Museum. This one:



There is a "Classic Aircraft" article on B-47s and the RB-47H (with a photo of 4299). **Plus**, a two-page centerfold picture of 4299 on the ramp at the Museum; **and** a picture of 4299 inside the Museum on display,

Jack (From an e-mail 13 January 2010)
(Note: It is obvious that the museum is as proud of the aircraft in the center of its Cold War Annex, and its place in history, as we who flew her are. Max)

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Jack would also like to remind members who are so inclined to donate/contribute **any** AF memorabilia (uniforms, photos, emblems, books, etc.) to the National Museum of the USAF rather than just chucking them. Clean out that basement, attic, or other hidey hole.

Feel free to e-mail or call him, and he can put you in contact with someone at the Museum to see if what you have is something they would accept.

E-address is J1a2c3k@aol.com,
Ph: 937-879-1390

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Flags Flown over the Air Force Memorial Now Available

*From an Air Force Association Bulletin
August 2011*

In response to many requests from members, the Air Force Memorial staff now makes available for purchase, **US flags** that have flown over the memorial. These are great gifts for retirement, birthdays, Christmas, etc. All flags purchased through the Air Force Memorial are **made in the USA** and include a certificate of authenticity.



Pricing: 3 x 5 - \$24 Nylon, \$34 Cotton; 5 x 8 - \$42 Nylon, \$59 Cotton (plus \$4 shipping and 5% Virginia sales tax). Nylon is recommended if the flag will be flown outside. You may also choose which (*specific or significant date*) you would like the flag flown over the Memorial.

For more information, contact the Air Force Memorial staff at afmf@airforcememorial.org or Ph: 703-979-0674.

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*Middle age is when broadness of mind and
narrowness of waist change places.*

*Men are from Earth. Women are from Earth.
Deal with it.*

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THE TERM 'MILITARY BRAT' ORIGIN

The following article is excerpted/edited from an item by the president of the Air Force Association. It may be a revelation for most of us who have used the term, but did not know from whence it originated.

Many of you may know that the term 'Brat' is a common reference to children of military members. **It is a term of endearment**, referring to a group who often endure hardships, frequently moves, change schools, leave behind friends, put up with deployments, long absences of their parents, and sometimes inadequate government housing.

A researcher at the National Defense University found a book written in 1921 which described the origins of the term. It came, as did many of our military traditions, from the British Army.

It seems that when a member of the British Army was assigned abroad, and could take his family (mostly to India), the family went with the member in an administrative status entitled: BRAT, an acronym for: *British Regiment Attached Traveler*.

Over the years, it was altered to refer only to the children of the military member since the wives of the British Army objected to the term referring to them. (*Perhaps reminiscent of the unflattering term: camp follower?*)

The term not only stuck, but in many cases was adopted world-wide and used by specific services, Air Force brat, Army brat, etc.

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Here is how members can help diversify the coverage in Videmus Omnia: Editor's usual plea: If anyone wishes to contribute letters, stories, photos and articles, please do so and send them to me.

*If events occur in your area (Florida, DC area, Denver/CSprings, Texas, California, et al.) that you think would be of interest to **the general readership**, mail or e-mail the pertinent details, and include the names of those 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, of course they 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: 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, the family pet even.



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. **The cost is now \$20 per shirt plus postage and handling.**

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 \$35 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 \$10 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: \$5.95 for one shirt, or one cap; \$11.35 for both a shirt and cap order; \$11.35 for two shirts. Yep, the USPS keeps upping the ante.

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

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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 also can 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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Shirts, caps and ties sold well at the last two reunions and more are ordered as needed.

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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FASHION PINS



(Shown as actual size)

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.

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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George Back has donated prints of two of his paintings to the **55th Wing Association.**

The first print (20" x 15") depicts the North Korean MiG attack on a 55th SRW RB-47 in April 1965. As most members know, George was a raven on that historic Cold War sortie. The battle-damaged RB-47 landed safely back at Yokota due to the superb piloting of A/C **Matt Mattison** and the gunnery skills of copilot **Hank Dubuy**



The second print (26" x 16") depicts a montage of Combat Apple RC-135M memorabilia from the 82nd SRS during the Vietnam era (1967-74).

Either of these prints are available for \$20 each (which includes shipping) from the **Association** store c/o **Larry Utley** (Offwego@cox.net). Make checks to the **55th Wing Association.**

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REUNIONS

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SAC WARRIORS REUNION

31 May-3 JUNE 2012

OMAHA/OFFUTT, NEBRASKA



Former members of all ranks and specialties, of the **Strategic Air Command** will gather to commemorate 20 years since SAC stood down, and to dedicate a memorial at the former SAC Museum (now named The Strategic Air and Space Museum).

The monument is nearly identical to the one dedicated in September 2004 at the National Museum of the Air Force near Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. It was produced by the same company that did the original SAC and 55th Cold War monuments.

LtGen (Ret) Leo Smith and **CMSgtAF(6) Jim McCoy** are co-chairing the reunion, and head a committee that has been working the agenda for several months. *(That committee includes several members of the 55th Association.)*

Coordination with the Museum staff has been vital to the project with **Director Scott Tarry** and **Amber Wusterbarth**, Administrative Assistant, playing major rolls.

USSTRATCOM and the 55th Wing at Offutt are supporting the effort. Notices have gone to all SAC affiliated and related organizations, as well. *(See 55wa.org)*

The LaVista Embassy Suites is the reunion hotel. Reservations at the special rate of \$99 can be made by calling 402-331-7400, or 866-6988-6648 toll free. **Cutoff date for the rate in 1 May.**

The agenda includes an ice breaker, hospitality suite, a SAC Memorial Chapel service, golf, the memorial dedication, a symposium, and a grand banquet.

A registration form with costs stated, the complete schedule of events and all the information

one needs by going to www.SASMuseum. **Cutoff date for registration is 18 May.**

Direct information and questions can be answered by contacting Ms. Wusterbarth at 402-944-3100, ex 202, during normal working hours, or awusterbarth@strategicairandspacemuseum.com

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WHO SHOT WHAT



Graphics and organization logos from various sources and web sites (hotel and AF Memorial). Pictures not previously attributed: Feldkamps from Sandy; Ball logo by **Josh Plueger**, 55th Wing PA; CSprings, Kerm Neal.

Pres Thomas, 82nd rug, Gifford, **Association** shirt, cap and 55th pin, Moore; RB-47H, Kovacs; tie by Pizzo. Prints from George Back

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See and please use the handy, dandy membership and information update form on the next page when paying your dues or letting us know you have relocated.

Your best and latest contact information is needed to update the database for the next publication of the Association Directory later this year.

Any changes since December of 2010 should be updated. If in doubt, send in a form.

Thank you very much.



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

