

# Videmus Omnia

## 55<sup>th</sup> WING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2012

### The 55<sup>th</sup> WING ASSOCIATION ROCKY MOUNTAIN REUNION 5-9 SEPTEMBER 2012 CROWNE PLAZA Colorado Springs, CO.

It will soon be time to head to beautiful Colorado Springs and join your 55<sup>th</sup> friends for our 29<sup>th</sup> Reunion, so mark your calendars and make plans now! There will be, of course, lots of stories, fellowship, and camaraderie.

You will find an entire registration package at the back of this newsletter: the week's agenda, tour options, and registration form.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel, located at 2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO, 80906 will be reunion HQ. You will want to make your reservations as soon as possible. The rooms are going quickly.

Contact the hotel directly at [www.cpcoloradosprings.com](http://www.cpcoloradosprings.com), or phone: 719-302-9871 to make your room reservations. The special reunion rate is \$109, so let them know you are coming for the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Do it now!!



If you'd like, the hotel can extend the rate should you decide to come early, and maybe stay later, to see the aspens in full color, among numerous other scenic sights and activities the Springs has to offer.

It is recommended you check out the hotel's web site where you can view its décor, facilities and many amenities.

For those who would like to do some shopping, browsing or lunches, the Crowne Plaza Hotel can help with transportation to the following three areas: Manitou Springs, Old Colorado City, and Downtown Colorado Springs.

There are also two large military bases within driving distance that have wonderful exchanges: Peterson AFB and Fort Carson. A few miles north of Colorado Springs is Castle Rock with a number of name brand outlet stores; and in south Denver there is a large upscale shopping area at Park Meadows Mall, including a new IKEA store.

Reunion chairs, and your hosts for the gathering, Sandy (95%) and Alan Feldkamp (5% sez Al) have worked diligently to plan another in the continuing series of memorable conclaves.



Sandy and Al (and others) report that there is early enthusiasm for this reunion, and a good turnout is anticipated. They have had offers from numerous folks to help out at the gathering.

The registration for the reunion includes a reception on Thursday, basic breakfast buffets on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and dinner on Friday and Saturday's banquet, plus the hospitality room with generous hours.

There will be golf at the USAF Academy on Thursday, 6 September, if there are enough who want to play (minimum 20 needed). **Hank Dubuy** is the determinant for this event, if it happens.

The planned week's agenda is: **Wednesday, 5 September**, early arrivals/registration. **Thursday, 6 Sept**, registration open, hospitality room and a welcome reception, and the Iron Springs Melodrama with dinner for those so inclined. **Friday, 7 Sept**, breakfast buffet; optional tours of the Air Force Academy, **or** Cripple Creek/Gold Mine, and casual dinner at the hotel.

**Saturday, 8 Sept**, breakfast buffet, **0800 membership meeting** (*this is a good time to wear your Association polo shirt*); optional tours of the Cog Railroad to the summit of Pikes Peak; **or** to Peterson AFB. Evening grand banquet with a cash bar (*coat and Association tie for the gents to this event. Ladies too, if they want*). **Sunday, 9 Sept**, breakfast then departure, or not.

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

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings from the Heartland.

Hope all are having a great spring and have a grand summer vacation to look forward to. If not, there is always the **55th** reunion in Colorado Springs in September. The scheduled events and registration forms are included herein. In your hands soon so we can lock up our planning and execute a successful reunion.

Our last two reunions, Reno and Allen (TX), had low attendance. We have spoken on the factors that possibly caused this. The only return factor with this reunion is just that – a return to Colorado Springs. I hear-tell that the 1998 CSpings reunion was a great success and had an attendance of 320.

Colorado Springs has grown up quite a bit in fourteen years. It is a very busy convention town with much to see and do. The hotel is very nice and is a very reunion friendly hotel.

Estimating the attendance numbers and putting together the room contract guarantee is in no way an exact science. The first planning factor, of course, is the estimate of attendance. That number is a “fully” informed, wild a--s guess (WAG), frankly, and from there derives the room guarantee.

Not meeting the guarantee, as we have experienced, can make things financially ugly. **So, please get your hotel reservations in soonest.** If we have estimated low on the attendance numbers, but can fill the guaranteed room numbers early, we have a better chance of renegotiating additional rooms vice going to another hotel. Help us out with early hotel contact if you can.

Sandy Feldkamp has included some activities, shopping sites, and places of interests, and modes of transport if you do not have a personal or rental car, on the provided itinerary. Complete information on local entertainment, shopping and dining will be included in your welcome package. The hospitality room needs no schedule. It will be available when you need it. Let's get those sign ups in the mail and call the hotel early. See you in Colorado Springs for another class act by the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association.**

One last item...we are always looking for new ways to save and spend your money wisely. Mike Cook and Max Moore have been finding smarter ways to print/distro our news letter. They have been very successful. Looking deeper, should it become a budget necessity, please let us know if you would be willing to read/download your newsletter from our web site. You may do this by responding with an e mail to our webmaster at the bottom (link provided) of the **Association** web page. Let us know your position (question provided on web page) so we can data base member desires and alter our current ops in the future if necessary.

Enough of this business stuff. Back to the fun part. Let's rally in Colorado Springs ...talk about the “good old days” and enjoy the present with good friends and comrades.

In the meantime...“you-all be careful out there now”.

***Videmus Omnia, Jim***

# ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTORY

## Association Business/Policy/Awards:

### President Jim Thomas

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### Vice President Ricky McMahon

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## Membership/Dues/Changes of Address:

### Treasurer Michael Cook

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### Secretary Kevin Todd

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### Newsletter Editor Max Moore

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## Association Historian:

### Robb Hoover

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E-mail: RobbHoover@aol.com

## Association Web Page Comments/Ideas:

### Webmaster Jim Maloney

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

## Other Members of the Board of Directors:

**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.

## Appointed Enlisted Affairs Liaison:

### Elvio Palmieri

1060 Highland Avenue  
Lake Forest, IL 60045-3873  
Elvio13@comcast.net

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This report, showing the number of members in **good standing**, will be made in the first newsletter of any given calendar year to reflect the end of the previous year's annual report.

In February 2012 a '*friendly reminder*' letter was sent to members whose dues had expired on 31 December 2011 urging their return. Many did, some did not.

That month's issue of the *Videmus Omnia* had the dues expiration date on address label for the reference of each individual member.

**Regrettably, members whose dues expired on 31 December 2011 were taken off the membership-in-good-standing roll effective 1 April 2012 (unless they renewed before then).**

As a matter of continuing good faith by the Association, this issue of the VO was mailed to those delinquent members in order to inform all hands about the upcoming reunion. Please note your expiration date and seriously consider renewing your membership in our merry band.

Unfortunately, those who do not renew are reading their last newsletter. **Pity.**

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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 on the address label to the **RIGHT** of your name in bold print: **20XX**

Membership comes due each January. It is hoped/expected that those of you who have yet to renew your dues for 2012, will do so soon.

Some members have paid up for out years as far as 2017, 2018 and 2019.

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Please remit dues to 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association as soon as practical for this and future years.

Mail to: 55<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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

You will find a membership/information update form at page 18 of this newsletter, as well as on the Association web site.

**We respectfully request that the form be used any time you pay dues, and/or to report any address or other changes in your contact information. That is the best way to ensure we have your latest information on file.**

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 30 April 2012, the treasury had an account balance (rounded) of \$33,000. A complete treasurer's report will be presented at the reunion.

Although the **Association** is solvent, we have 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.*

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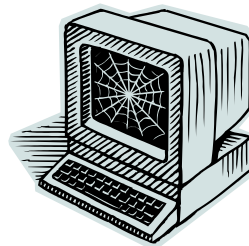
## YOUR 55<sup>TH</sup> WING ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

[www.55wa.org](http://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 55<sup>th</sup> warriors a means to reconnect. It is not uncommon for past 55<sup>th</sup> SRW/55<sup>th</sup> 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.

A recent one month snapshot analysis of the web site's nearly 300 visits revealed that there are 60% return visitors vice 40% new ones. About 17% of the hits are from Offutt/Omaha area residents and the rest are nationwide.

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 55<sup>th</sup> family who have passed.

**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 advancing, we now have our own presence on the social networking phenomenon, Facebook.**

**Reminder to all:** We migrated to our current web site address [www.55wa.org](http://www.55wa.org) when we changed the organization's name to the **55th Wing Association**. We have maintained the former web site address ([www.55srwa.org](http://www.55srwa.org)) 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](http://www.55wa.org) .

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## 55<sup>th</sup> WING HERITAGE WEEK

In March 2010 **Association** President Thomas proposed to the then 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander, **BGen John Shanahan**, that some wing units hold a series of events during the week leading up to the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Birthday Ball to commemorate the history and legacy of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*. The general readily embraced the idea, issued a wing-wide "Shanagram" and another tradition was born.

Continuing that commitment, this year from 26-31 March, Heritage Week was celebrated and highlighted by such functions as the Ops Group Commander's Conference, the Wing Commander's Conference, gatherings at the 38<sup>th</sup>, 338<sup>th</sup> and 343<sup>rd</sup> squadrons, culminating with the Hall of Fame ceremony, the *Tales of the 55<sup>th</sup>*, and the main event, the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Wing Birthday Ball.

Current 55<sup>th</sup> commander **BGen Donald Bacon** stated, "*The Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* has a rich heritage of exceptional achievement and proven performance going back 71 years. This week celebrates where we have been and the importance of our history as we continue into the future."

"Our wing has over seven decades of producing heroes, and (*this week*) provides them an opportunity to congregate back at their home wing," General Bacon concluded.

Pres Thomas added, "The **Association** is a partner of the Wing, with nearly 700 members worldwide, former and current members of the Wing. Their role is to assist the Wing in numerous ways, one of which is to help keep the 55<sup>th</sup> storied history alive by supporting events such as Heritage Week."

The functions at the operational squadrons of today allow the seasoned crewdogs to return and mingle with the current generation of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

(Note: Quotations above were excerpted from an article in the 22 March issue of the Base 68113 paper by **SSgt Carrie M. Peasinger**, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs.)

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## HALL OF FAME

**Colonel Joseph W. Siniscalchi**, USAF, Retired, was the inducted into the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Hall of Fame at a ceremony on Friday, 30 March. BGen Donald Bacon, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing CC made the presentation.



Joe S+10 is recognized for his distinguished career in the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* as a crewmember, squadron commander, detachment commander and operations group; plus, with other units that supported the RC-135 operations and 55<sup>th</sup> missions.

In each assignment, he made significant contributions to the nation's security, and specifically, the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's* mission successes. He was assigned to, or directly supported, 55<sup>th</sup> SRW/WG operations for the majority of his USAF career, and in his current service with L-3 Communications.

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*Members of the Hall of Fame do the lodge pose.*

*L to R: Hank Dubuy, Larry Mitchell, Lynn Duncan, Bill Ernst, Robb Hoover, Joe Siniscalchi, Michael Cook, Jeff Needham, Steve Stevens, Max Moore.*

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## TALES OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup>

The thirteenth edition was held **Friday, 30 March**, in the CMSAF James M. McCoy Airmen Leadership School with Association President Thomas emceeding. At 1630, after the sounding of the 55<sup>th</sup> Ceremonial Bell by **Arlen Howe**, Robb Hoover and BGen Bacon, the general made opening remarks. Thomas followed with a report on the various monuments to the WWII 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group history in the UK and at 55<sup>th</sup> Wing HQ.



*L to R: Hover, Howe, Bacon*

A Cold War Tribute to the 55<sup>th</sup> video was shown. It was compiled for the 2010 Birthday Ball at the behest of BGen Shanahan, then the wing commander, by Hoover and Moore, narrated by **Dave Webber**, with the expert technical assistance of 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Audio Visual specialist **Kevin Schwandt**. That video can be viewed on the **Association** web site.



*Kevin at work at the Tales. He consistently covers Wing and Association events and supports any way he can. Kudos to a good guy.*

Moore followed the video with a Cold War tale of the 17 November 1970 incident over the Pachora Sea north of Murmansk, when Soviet MiG-17s fired

warning shots in the vicinity of a 55<sup>th</sup> special project aircraft performing a CIA driven surveillance mission.

**Captain Chris Shannon**, 45<sup>th</sup> Recon Sqd, shared his story of North Korean MiG 29s surprising intercept of a COBRA BALL mission aircraft over the Sea of Japan in 2010. Shannon is a second generation 55<sup>th</sup>, his dad being **Mike**, a former 1ACCS commander.

Also of the 45<sup>th</sup>, navigator **Capt Mark Cramer** told of his experience with WC-135 response missions to Japan's March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. He detailed the process before and after of putting aircraft and crew in a radiation hot zone.

The event is co-sponsored by the **Association**; the Lemay Flight, Order of Dadaelians; and the Strategic Roost of the Association of Old Crows.

Attendance grows every year as most of the wing's senior staff, and an eclectic group of active duty troops, retirees, families, and assorted visitors in town for the Ball fill the venue.



## ANNUAL 55<sup>TH</sup> WING BIRTHDAY BALL

The 55<sup>th</sup> Wing held its 34<sup>th</sup> 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 celebrated the 71<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unit from its roots in the activation of the 55<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Group at Hamilton Field, CA, in January 1941, during World War II.



The Ball is the Wing's largest annual formal social function. **This year 970 people attended, an all time high**, including many alumni and **Association** members. The event was hosted by **Brigadier General Donald Bacon, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander**, and his wife, **Angela**.

This year's theme, *"Three Generations of Integrity, Excellence, Service"*, recognized 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 peacetime and in the war on terrorism.

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

Max Moore and Bill Ernst represented 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.



*Association President Thomas presents a \$1000 check to BGen Bacon, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander in his office on 1 March. Representing the Ball committee is MSgt Kanani Reed of the 97<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron, who was the dynamic chief fund raiser.*

*BGen Bacon expressed his sincere appreciation to the Association membership for its generosity in assisting the Ball effort.*

**General Ronald R. Fogleman** (USAF Retired) accompanied by his delightful wife, **Miss Jayne**, was this year's guest speaker. General Fogleman served as Air Force Chief of Staff from October 1994 thru August 1997 when he retired. He knew his audience, his subject and had a commanding presence. The attendees were rapt during his talk.



*General Folgerman (L) enjoys a light moment with Trevia and Pete Potter and BGen Bacon during the pre-Ball social hour.*

Dave Webber, a well-known TV personality in Omaha, again was the master of ceremonies for the event. He absolutely loves this gig and has a tremendous respect for the *Fightin' Fifth*. Mr. Webber served in the Air Force at Offutt with the SAC Elite Guard in the 1960s before starting his broadcast career.

Former wing commanders in attendance this year were BGen (Ret) **Larry Mitchell** and his wife **Susan**; Colonel (Ret) **Steven Stevens** with his grandsons AFROTC cadets **Reid** and **Eric Wondra**, Colonel (Ret) **Dan Peterson** and his wife, **Katy**. Former Wing Command Chiefs **Michael Parente**, and his wife **Dottie**, and **Vicki Swingle** also attended.

Among the numerous dignitaries there were: **MGen Kim Siniscalchi**, Assistant Air Force Surgeon General, and Assistant AF Surgeon General, Nursing Services, Headquarters, US Air Force; and **MGen Thomas Andersen**, Commander, Curtis E. LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education, and Vice Commander, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, (both of whom are 55<sup>th</sup> alumni). **Congressmen Lee Terry** and **Jeff Fortenberry** (both R-Neb) and their wives; the sixth ChiefMSgt of the AF, **James McCoy** and his wife **Kathy**; Bellevue Mayor **Rita Sanders**; Nebraska State Senators **Bob Krist** and wife **Peg**, and **Scott** and Mrs **Price**, plus a cadre of RAF officers and enlisted crew members who are undergoing training in the RC-135 with the 338<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron.

In addition to the many usual local **Association** suspects who regularly attend the gala, an increasing number of alumni from out of town were

at this year's event. They came from Texas, Colorado, Virginia, Maryland, Kansas, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Washington, Ohio, et al.

**Association Vice Pres Ricky McMahon** headed a posse of his peers from the 1980s that included **Col Bill and Sue McKechnie, LtCol Trish and Jeff Seinwill. Rich Holsinger, Jack Franz, Bobby Reehorn, Sergio Muniz, James and Susan Taylor, Craig and Carol Ebjay, Mike Griffin, Scott Benge, Keith and Betsy Forman, Chris Hofstad, Dave Heininger and Dave Erteschik and Mary Comfort.**

Others who braved TSA inspections or road fatigue were **Sandy and Al Feldkamp, Jim and Marion Taylor, Pete and Treva Potter, Al and Suzanne Brunner, Mark and Suanne Smith, Lynn Duncan, Hank and Sandra Dubuy, Clark and Valerie Hinkle, and Tom Prior.**

*(Apologies to any travelers who were missed in this article. Mea culpa.)*

Other items on the program included appropriate toasts and military ceremonies; presentation of the newest member of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Hall of Fame**; introduction of the winner of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association Award for Excellence**; and the traditional cutting of the birthday cake by the wing commander, a representative of the senior generation in attendance, and the youngest member of the Wing.



*The ceremonial cake, MC Webber (at podium), BGen Bacon, Pete Potter and AIC Hinostriza Mariah, 55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Communications Sqd.*

There was dancing to the *Raptor*, a nine-piece versatile ensemble of the Heartland of American Band, after the ceremonies to wind up the evening.

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## AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

**MSgt Dennis W. Carr**, Deputy Flight Chief, Civil Engineering Support, **55<sup>th</sup> Contracting Sqd** is the 2012 winner of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association Award for Excellence**. The award was announced at the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Birthday Ball** by President Thomas.



*Presentation by LtCol Mo Krishna, 55<sup>th</sup> Association Board of Directors member, to MSgt Carr, with Col (Ret) Ham Kennedy, a longtime Association member.*

MSgt Carr had previously been selected as the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Senior NCO of the Year** for 2011, and as the Air Combat Command, Outstanding Contracting Senior NCO of the Year.

He served a six month deployment to Afghanistan in 2011 as the NATO Forces Chief Contractor. His superior performance was recognized by **Army General David Patraeus**, Commander, US Forces Afghanistan, and a NATO foreign ambassador. He also was awarded a Bronze Star for his outstanding support to NATO forces.

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## FIGHTIN' FIFTY-FIFTH EARNS OMAHA TROPHY

For the second time in three years, US Strategic Command awarded the Omaha Trophy to the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** signifying the unit as the best strategic aircraft operations wing.

**General C. Robert Kehler**, STRATCOM commander, recently made the announcement of the award, which goes to the organization demonstrating the highest performance standards within the Command's mission areas.



Selection was based upon formal evaluations, meritorious achievement, safety, and other factors, such as: community involvement and humanitarian actions.

The Omaha Trophy is presented by the Strategic Command Consultation Committee, a local civilian organization that supports Team Offutt, and whose lineage dates back to Strategic Air Command and **General Curtis E. LeMay**.

“Winning the Omaha Trophy is a great honor for the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**,” said BGen Bacon, the **55<sup>th</sup> Commander**, “and I thank General Kehler, USSTRATCOM, and the consultation committee for recognizing our airmen.”

“We had a historic year in 2011, and supporting USSTRATCOM’s mission is one of the most important mission sets we have,” Bacon continued.

“The fact that this trophy also reflects the great support we have from our local community makes it even more meaningful.” Bacon added, “This community sets the standard throughout the Department of Defense and we are blessed to call it home.”

*This article is excerpted and edited from one on the Offutt web site by **Ryan Hansen, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs**, dated 30 April 2012.*

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## MEMORIAL BRICK ORDERS: STILL CAN DO

Dear Fellow Members,

There have been no new brick orders since 2011, and all previous orders have been submitted, filled, and are in place. **But, it is still possible to order new ones.**

There may be some **55<sup>th</sup>** veterans and/or family members, friends, associates, et al, who want to order bricks for the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** Cold War Memorial patio in the National Museum of the USAF Memorial Gardens, near Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. That memorial was dedicated in September 2003. Over 600 bricks have been engraved-to-order and are in place thus far.

**If you wish to buy a brick, or know of anyone who wants one, now is the time to place an order.**

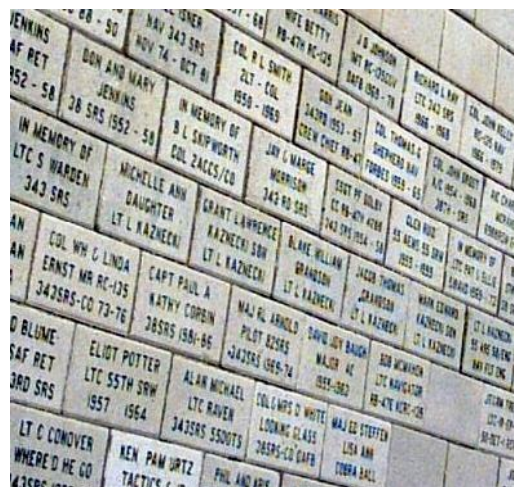
The cost is **\$65 for per brick**, and the engraving is **limited** to three lines, 13 characters per line including spaces, dashes and slashes (**No periods,**

**commas, colons or semicolons or quotation marks.**

You can e-mail exactly how you want your brick to read (all caps, please); or make your checks payable to **55 Wing Association**, tell us exactly how you want your brick(s) to read, and mail to Bill Ernst, 410 Greenbriar Court, Bellevue, NE, 68005, or e-mail: BillErnst1@cox.net

We need your orders before 1 August this year to plan for getting the bricks engraved and painted before winter sets in, if possible.

*Videmus Omnia, Bill*



*Section of the patio showing bricks*

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## TAPS



**ARCHER, Harold (Hal)**, 91, 30 December 2011, Murrieta, CA. A veteran of WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War, Hal was a pilot with the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** in RB-50s and later, RB-47s at Forbes AFB, KS in the 1950s

**D’ORVILLIER, Lawrence P. (Larry)**, 81, 12 February 2012, Thonotosassa, FL. Larry was an electronics specialist in the **55<sup>th</sup>**

A&E Sqd at Forbes AFB, KS in the mid-1950s thru mid-1960s.

**FENNELLY, Norman**, 68, 27 February 2012, Melbourne, FL; wife of 45 years, **Arlene**. Norm was an EWO in B-66s out of Thailand and flew 114 combat missions in Viet Nam. He came to the **55<sup>th</sup>**

at Offutt in 1975 as a COMBAT SENT EWO. He later worked for and retired from Science Applications International Corp (SAIC).

**GASKELL, Jeffery**, 70, 23 April 2012, The Villages, FL; wife, **Mary**. Jeff was an RC-135 EWO in the 82<sup>nd</sup> SRS at Kadena 1974-76, and later served in the SAC Recon Center at Offutt in the late 1970s. Retiring from the AF after 30 years service, he worked for SAIC in Molesworth, England, then retired to Florida.

**GODDARD, Dean S. (Buddy)**, 78, 11 March 2012, Wimberley, TX. An RB-47 pilot and later a maintenance officer at Forbes in the late 1950s. Went to B-52s from there and flew missions in Viet Nam. He later worked on the space shuttle program both in the AF and as a civilian. Buddy served his community in various capacities for 20 years.

**GULLETT, Sondra Jean**, 75, 27 January 2012, Bellevue, NE. She was the widow of **William**. Bill was an RC-135 EWO and later a staff officer in the 55<sup>th</sup> at Offutt in the 1980s. He passed in September 2008 at age 72.

**HUTFLES, LtCol Veronica**, 37, 7 April 2012, Bellevue, NE. A 1996 graduate of the USAF Academy, and a B-52 pilot, her last assignment was at US Strategic Command at Offutt. Her brother, **Anthony** was an RC-135 EWO in the in the 343<sup>rd</sup> for ten years.

**MORSS, Marvin N. (Bud)**, 88, 16 April 2012, with family in Imperial Beach, CA; he was a resident of Tidewater, OR.



A veteran of four wars: WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War. Bud was the first commander of the 82<sup>nd</sup> SRS at Kadena in 1967. He was DO, vice CC, and then commander of the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW from June 1971-Aug 1972. His last AF assignment was as Chief of Staff at 15<sup>th</sup> AF at March AFB, CA.

Retiring after 33 years service, he taught JrROTC at Novato High School, Marin County, CA, and managed properties in Tidewater.

**SCHWEIZER, John (Jack) R.**, 80, 27 March 2012, Findlay, OH; wife of over 57 years, **Peg**. In 1951 Jack was an RB-50 pilot. He later joined the 55<sup>th</sup> at Forbes AFB, KS, in the mid-1950s and was an AC/IP in the RB-47. Jack retired in 1971 and had a successful career in telecommunications. He retired as president of American Paging in 1999.

**SMITH, Genevieve (Peg)**, 91, 25 February 2012, Santa Rosa, CA. Raised in Stockton, CA, Peg was the widow of **C. Hunter**, an RB pilot and former 343<sup>rd</sup> Sqd commander at Forbes mid-1950s, who passed in 2003. They were married 61 years.

**SMITH, Robert L.**, 88, Austin, TX, 29 February 2012; wife of 66 years, **Hilda**. RL was a WWII pilot who flew B-24s in Europe. He was a long time 55<sup>th</sup>er at Forbes and Offutt. An RB-47 AC/IP and 343<sup>rd</sup> SRS commander. He later served as the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW Deputy Commander for Ops at Offutt, and for the 6<sup>th</sup> Strat Wing at Eielson AFB, AK. He retired in 1975 as Director of Reconnaissance at 15<sup>th</sup> AF, and went into real estates sales in Austin.

**O'KELLEY, Jean**, 88, 2 January 2012, LaVerkin, UT. She was the widow of **Stanley**, the A/C on the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW RB-50 shot down by Soviet fighters in 1953. Jean regularly attended 55<sup>th</sup> reunions, most recently in Reno in 2006, shown here.



**WARREN, Lee W.**, 70, 10 May 2012, Papillion, NE; wife, **Judith**. Lee retired as the Logistics Group Commander (Maintenance) of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing circa 1990. He then became a master tax preparer for 15 years.

\* \* \* \* \*

**TAPS** notification of **Association** members, spouses, friends and associates taking the Big PCS should be sent to Editor 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 55<sup>th</sup> - base, time and duty. Thank you.**

Please note that the news in TAPS is determined and limited by how much and how accurate the given information.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MAIL 'N STUFF



Dear Max,

I've attached a photo of the vanity plate I wheedled out of the great and sovereign state of Mississippi. The kind lady at the tax assessor's office declined my first request, but she finally agreed when I made a few slight changes.

It seems "beer-swilling, hairy-legged, licentious crewdog" had a few too many letters for the convicts at the state pen to squeeze onto a license plate. Go figure.



Respectfully,

**Brent Lavers**, Hernado, MS

COBRA BALL nav at Eielson 1977-80

(From an e-mail 2 March 2012)

\* \* \* \* \*

Hi Robb,

My wife **Sylvia** and I spent a nice week at the Ft Buchanan Army Base guest house in San Juan, Puerto Rico, late last month (*January*).

We drove to what is left of Ramey AFB. The runways, etc., are a commercial airport. The only buildings recognizable (*to me*) were the Officers Club and the hospital. The Club looks the same, except for some aging, like me. The hospital has been converted to a Marriott Hotel, and we had lunch there.

I reported to (*the 55<sup>th</sup> at*) Ramey in June 1951 as a second lieutenant just out of (*EWO*) school. I was assigned to **James E. Smith's** (*RB-50*) crew. He

was known as "Jig Easy", a somewhat colorful character, beloved and respected by all. He did have a penchant for doing wing-overs in the RB-50G. I doubt if it was an approved maneuver.

Other officers on the crew were: **Arnold Winters**, co-pilot; **John Kulpa** and **Fred Guillermet**, navigators; ravens: **Jose Nin**, **Fred Jeffers**, **Larry Brown**, and **Pat Elliott**. Winters, Kulpa and I are the only ones still living.

The crew consisted of about seventeen bodies. I haven't kept track of our fine enlisted men, but I suspect some are still around. They were much younger.

Not many of us are left who were stationed at Ramey AFB with the **55<sup>th</sup>**.

Cordially,

**Mil Seabaugh**, San Diego, CA.

(From a letter to Robb Hoover, February 2012)

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Mike:

Just received (*the*) **55<sup>th</sup>** (*Association*) newsletter. It was packed full of good tidbits.

I was particularly proud to see that the Wing has a new "Olmstead-McKone Trophy". To say I am honored is putting it mildly. Thank everyone for their assistance in this effort.

I regret I could not attend the ceremony. I have (*health issues that*) restrict my activity and travel. I am going to fight it.

Say hello to everyone for me. I miss the old gang and always will. "Once a **55<sup>th</sup>**er, always a **55<sup>th</sup>**er."

With sincere best wishes to all,

**John McKone**, Hardyville, VA.

(From a 7 March 2012 letter to Michael Cook.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## PRO-NUN-SEE-A-SHUN

During a social encounter a few years ago, a young second lieutenant (*are there any other kind?*), who professed to have survived four years as a student of *Latin*, informed this editor that the correct pronunciation of the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth** wing motto is thus: **Wi - dAy - moose Om-nee -ah**.

(*It means 'We See All' in that dead language.*)

He insisted the 'v' be pronounced as a 'w', and a soft 'i', with emphasis on the mid-syllable and a hard 'A'. Thus, for your edification, or whatever.

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



## 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 significant date** you would like the flag flown over the Memorial.

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



## OFFUTT FALLEN WARRIOR MEMORIAL

On March 23, ground was broken on the historic Offutt AFB parade ground, across the street and north of the SAC Memorial Chapel, for the Offutt Fallen Warrior Memorial.

The completed memorial will be approximately 90 square feet in size, and feature a polished black star with the seals of each armed service represented in bronze. In the center of the star will



be a statue of combat boots, an inverted rifle topped by a helmet, all in bronze, and constantly lit by solar accent lights. The site will be used for appropriate ceremonies.

The Offutt Top 3 Association has been working on this project for almost two years.

"We are very proud that we'll have a place to honor service members from Team Offutt and our local community, who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our nation," said **MSgt. David Vasser**, US Strategic Command, J2 SJ-R Regional Division superintendent, and a Top 3 member.

At the ground breaking was **Col Kevin Dixon**, **55th Wing** Vice Commander, and **Chief MSgt Suzan Sangster**, **55th Wing** Command Chief, as well as many members of the Top 3.

The Top 3 has established a website ([www.offuttfallenmemorial.com](http://www.offuttfallenmemorial.com)) where people can go online for more information on the project, and to see how the project construction progressed.

*Edited from an article by **Ryan Hansen**, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs*



*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.*

*The **only** way to broaden our coverage is to get input from the near and far reaches of **Fifty-Fifth-land**. **Names are news. Pictures are good.***

*Thanks, and **Videmus Omnia**, Max*

*MaxMoore55@aol.co*

*m*

*(Contributions may be,..... well, of course they will be, edited for content, readability, and spacing.)*



# ASSOCIATION BX

\* \* \* \* \*

## ORDER SHIRTS, CAPS AND TIES FOR THE REUNION NOW !!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

### ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

These are ‘must have’ items for any of reunion events and tours, and the membership meeting; plus, they look good on the golf course, for casual Fridays at the office, and any leisure activity.

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.** There are just a few mediums remaining. They will not be reordered.



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](http://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.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 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 Association reunion banquet, and other appropriate events.**

\* \* \* \* \*

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](mailto: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 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## 55<sup>TH</sup> 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 **55<sup>th</sup>** 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.

(Shown actual size)



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

\* \* \* \* \*

## REUNIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

### SAC WARRIORS REUNION

31 MAY-3 JUNE 2012

OMAHA/OFFUTT, NEBRASKA

Former members of all ranks, specialties, and units of the **Strategic Air Command** gathered 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) near Ashland, NE.



Attendance included several former CINCSACs and Senior Enlisted Advisors (*Command Chiefs*).

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

**LtGen (Ret) Leo Smith** and **CMSgtAF(6) (Ret) Jim McCoy** co-chaired the reunion, and headed a committee that worked the agenda for several months. (*That committee, planners and volunteers, included several members of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association.*)

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

The **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** and USSTRATCOM at Offutt supported the effort. Notices were sent to all SAC affiliated and related organizations nationwide.

The agenda included an ice breaker, hospitality suite, a SAC Memorial Chapel service, golf, the memorial dedication and lunch, a symposium, and grand banquet with featured speaker **General (Ret) Larry Welch**, former CINCSAC.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THIRD ANNUAL COLORADO RC – REUNION

Alumni of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* in the Denver/CSprings area will gather once again on **Saturday, 28 July**, at the Black Forest estate of **Stu Aldridge**. Details and directions will follow from the area honcho, **Kerm Neal**, who will spread the word as the date nears. But log the date now.

Those interested in attending the casual event can reach Kerm at [Kermit.Neal@northcom.mil](mailto:Kermit.Neal@northcom.mil) and get on his e-mail list for future contact.

\* \* \* \* \*

### VIRGINIA 'CHAPTER'

The East Coast / Pentagon 'Chapter' of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** is planning another Bullpen Bar-B-Que at a Potomac Nationals minor league baseball game at a date yet to be determined. Altho this is the third in a series at the ol' ball yard, there

have been gatherings at other times and venues in the recent years.

**Ricky McMahon** leads this posse and will be polling the area group for a consensus for a suitable Saturday night game this summer. Let him know if you want to attend. He can be reached at [Ricky\\_CaryMc@comcast.net](mailto:Ricky_CaryMc@comcast.net)

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE DFC SOCIETY  
CONVENTION  
19-23 AUGUST 2012  
SEATTLE, WA**

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society will headquarter its gathering at the Seattle Airport Marriott. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-314-0925, or direct at 206-241-2000, before 27 July to get the group rate of \$117 per night.



**Terry Sullivan** is chairing the convention committee. **Registration form, events agenda, tour options, and other details can be gained by going to the organization's website, DFCsociety.org.**

**Cut off date is 19 July 2012 for registration.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**BIG SAFARI GATHERING  
23-24 AUGUST 2012**



The 645th Aeronautical Assistance Support Group at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, **Colonel Ed Topps** commanding, is hosting events to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Big Safari.

**Registration and details are being worked, but they are looking for a potential head count.**

If interested in attending, you can RSVP to **Tim Spaeth** at [timothy\\_spaeth@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:timothy_spaeth@wpafb.af.mil), or call 937-550-4177 for updated details.

On the tentative agenda thus far are: a golf outing, social hours, a memorial rededication and an open house at the 645<sup>th</sup> at Wright-Pat.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please note that the Big Safari Assn is planning its **next official reunion** in Colorado Springs, **19-23 June 2013** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. So that could be *deju vu* all over again. **Barrie Kibbe** is in charge, and it is to be hosted by Lockheed-Martin and Sierra Nevada Corp.

\* \* \* \* \*

**B-47 ASSOCIATION REUNION  
1-3 NOVEMBER 2012  
TUCSON, AZ**

This gathering is to be headquartered at the Double Tree Tucson Reid Park Hotel Tucson. To make reservations call the hotel directly at 800-222-8733 and identify yourself as attending the B-47 reunion for the special room rate of \$95 plus tax.



**Cutoff date is 2 October 2012 for hotel reservations and reunion registration.**

The reunion is open to all personnel and units who flew, maintained or appreciated any and all models the B-47.

With the exception of the hotel reservations, the reunion fees, activities and dinners are being handled by the Reunion BRAT organization. They can be reached at 360-663-2521 or [thereunionbrat@hotmail.com](mailto:thereunionbrat@hotmail.com)

More information, many details, **registration form** and contacts are available by going to the association's web site <http://b-47.org>; or by contacting **Bill Clark** at 520-825-4242, or [Clark3w1@yahoo.com](mailto:Clark3w1@yahoo.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHO SHOT WHAT**

Graphics and organization logos from various sources and web sites (CSprings hotel, AF Memorial). Pictures not previously attributed: Feldkamps from Sandy; Ball logo by **Josh Plueger**, **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** PA; brick patio by **Jack Kovacs**; Jean O'Kelley, by Don Griffin; **Association** shirt, cap by Utley; tie by Pizzo; **55<sup>th</sup>** pin, Hall of Fame, Tales, Award and Ball pix, by Moore. Krishna, official AF photo.

# AN ACTIVE DUTY PERSPECTIVE

By LtCol Mohan Krishna

*LtCol Krishna, serves as an active duty member of the Association's Board of Directors. A Maryland native, a graduate of the USAF Academy, and a former 343<sup>rd</sup> RS EWO and commander, he is in his fourth assignment with the 55<sup>th</sup>, currently as the Deputy Commander, Mission Support Group.*



## A VIEW FROM THE FRONT LINES

As with most wings, the 55<sup>th</sup> is gearing up for a summer of change with the Wg/CC and CV, the OG/CC and the MDG/CC all changing out along with numerous squadron commanders.

The great thing about our wing is that change in leadership usually doesn't mean a change in operations. The crews and maintainers often see three or four commanders change out before they have the opportunity to PCS. Before I moved over to the mission support group side, I thought that the Offutt gravitational pull only affected direct RC-135 operations, but I was wrong. The support officers do swap very regularly at the three year point, but the airman and NCOs can often make a career out of guarding our flight line or keeping our military personnel records straight.

The 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association has always leaned heavily on our flying heritage, but we need to find ways to branch out to other 55<sup>th</sup>ers who find a home at Offutt and have just as much to be proud about. The challenge is how to get to a broader audience, and how to sell the benefits of our organization. BGen Bacon is a strong supporter (*of the Association*) and I'm sure that Col Roche (*the incoming CC*) will be equally strong.

If we can ask for time at wing commander's calls we can take advantage of the captive audience. I don't think tables in front of the BX work well because people feel like they are under attack and find ways to avoid the contact. Also, we have

many great diplomats in our ranks who would be great speakers at squadron commander calls.

With over 12% of the wing deployed at any time, we also need to find more ways to support our Airman before they go and as they come back. Many different organizations work through the Airman and Family Readiness Center to provide phone cards, oil changes and babysitting to deployed families, so we could target support to folks as return.

The Ops Group use to coordinate a mini reception for the families of the returnees so that they had something to eat and drink and a place for folks to get updates. The departures are usually very tightly run, but sometimes Airman are left for hours on end in limbo when airlift slips.

In both cases, the Association could sponsor water bottles and basic snacks at a 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association table and we could have Association members on hand to hand out the snacks and help with crowd control. This suggestion does sound like USO receptions that I have received at many different bases, but because of those receptions, I give to the USO every year. This effort may mean having a ready team available to at least set up the table and would mean getting water bottles produced with the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association information on them. Not an easy task, but maybe what the active duty would appreciate from their heritage association.

For us to gain traction with the active duty crowd we need to be more vocal and more visible. Who wouldn't want to be part of a great bunch of folks with a common heritage and a big heart for all of our Airman.





# TALES MONTAGE



BGen Bacon opens the Tales



Hoover and the dreaded hook, Thomas



Moore regales



Capt Shannon entralls



Capt Cameron raps



Toasting the troops deployed – Thomas, Cameron, Shannon, Bacon, Moore



# Videmus Omnia



## 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association, Inc.

(Formerly – 55<sup>th</sup> 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 55<sup>th</sup> Strat Recon Wing? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dates of Service)



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

When were you a member of the 55<sup>th</sup> 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:

**55<sup>TH</sup> 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

2 April 2010

## ***ITINERARY FOR THE REUNION***

### ***Thursday Sept 6, 2012***

Golf at the Air Force Academy (Need 20 players) Time and fees TBD

8am-4pm Registration in hotel lobby

2pm-4pm Hospitality Suite open

4pm-5:15pm Welcome Reception – Casual dress

**Dinner on your own for those not going to Melodrama**

### ***IRON SPRINGS MELODRAMA DINNER THEATRE (60 minimum)***

5:45pm Depart hotel for Iron Springs Melodrama for Dinner Theatre - Casual dress

Hospitality Suite opens after return from theater - About 10:30 pm

### ***Friday Sept 7, 2012***

7:00am-8:30am Breakfast Buffet in hotel Summit Ballroom

8:00-9:00am Registration for late arrivals in hotel lobby

### ***US Air Force Academy Tour***

9:00am Depart hotel for AFA stops at B-52, Athletic Field Overlook, Visitors Center, tour of the Chapel, and Falcon Club for lunch with Cadets and a mission briefing. Return to hotel 3:00 pm

### **OR**

### ***Cripple Creek/ Mollie Kathleen Mine Tour (25 minimum)***

8:45am Buses depart for Cripple Creek, Colorado 90 min bus ride

With an option to visit Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine on the north edge of Cripple Creek. Return to hotel 4:00pm

### ***Friday Evening in Summit Ballroom***

4:00pm-5:30 Hospitality Suite open

5:30pm Dinner and No host bar in Summit Ballroom - Casual dress

Hospitality Suite open after the dinner

### ***Saturday Sept 8, 2012***

7:00am-9:00am Breakfast Buffet in Summit Ballroom

**8:00am Membership meeting** in Summit Ballroom (All reunion attendees are welcome)

### ***Cog Railroad to Pikes Peak Tour (20 minimum)***

9:30am Buses leave for Cog Railroad to Pikes Peak – 30 min bus ride

10:40am Ride up Pikes Peak. Return to buses at 2pm and hotel about 2:30 pm

### **OR**

### ***Peterson AFB Tour (No minimum)***

9:30am Buses leave for Peterson AFB with visits to the Peterson Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of WWII Aviation. Lunch at the Club at Peterson AFB. Return to hotel about 2:00pm

### ***Saturday Sept 8 Evening***

4:00pm-5:30 Hospitality Suite open

5:30pm Dinner and No host bar in Summit Ballroom – Gents coat and (Assn) tie.

Hospitality Suite open after the dinner

### ***Sunday Sept 9 2012***

7:00am-9:00am Breakfast buffet in Summit Ballroom

## **Trips and Tours Options**

*Thursday Sept 6, 2012*

### ***Tour A-----Iron Springs Melodrama Dinner Theater***

Cost \$45.00 per person which includes family-style dinner, melodrama and bus transportation

For more than 48 years, the Iron Springs Melodrama Dinner Theater has provided the Pikes Peak Region with evenings of hilarious comedy and quality entertainment. The evening begins with a family-style dinner and the melodrama immediately following (audience participation is strongly encouraged). After the melodrama, a foot-stomping sing-along and vaudeville olio full of song, dance and comedy continues the fun throughout the evening.

<http://www.pikes-peak.com/Attraction/15.aspx>

*Friday Sept 7, 2012*

### ***Tour B-----Air Force Academy***

Cost \$30.00 per person which includes sightseeing around the Academy, lunch at Falcon Club and bus transportation

**OR**

### ***Tour C-----Cripple Creek***

Cost \$25.00 bus transportation per person **\*\*For additional \$16.00 you can stop for a tour of the Gold Mine\*\***

Cripple Creek's Casinos provide today's fortune-seekers with state-of-the art slot machines and a chance to try their skills at blackjack or poker. Shopping, dining and a restful day in the crisp mountain air.

<http://www.cripple-creek.co.us/Attractions.aspx>

### ***Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine***

Cost \$16.00 admission per person **\*\*You must also sign up for Cripple Creek since that is the bus transportation to the mine for drop off and pick up\*\***

A spectacular adventure awaits visitors on the Mollie Kathleen Mine tour. The nation's only historic gold mine tour descends 1,000 feet below ground, where visitors learn about the workings of the 1890s hard rock gold miner, beginning with a ride on a skip (elevator) to the lower working levels of the mine. Visitors witness the operation of numerous pieces of air-powered gold mining equipment and ride aboard the last air-powered Tram-Air Locomotive.

<http://www.cripple-creek.co.us/MollieKathleenMine.aspx>

*Saturday Sept 8, 2012*

### ***Tour D-----Peterson AFB***

Cost \$27.00 per person includes bus transportation, lunch at the Club and visits to the Peterson Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of WWII Aviation

<http://www.petemuseum.org/>

<http://www.worldwariiavilation.org/>

**OR**

<http://www.pikes-peak.com/Attraction/24.aspx>

### ***Tour E-----Cog Railroad up Pikes Peak***

Cost \$45.00 per person which includes bus transportation and the cog rail ride to the top.

This is a favorite of ours to take people to. To read all about the ride to the top of Our Mountain go to

<http://www.cograilway.com/>

**Those taking this tour need to be aware the altitude goes to 14,000 ft.**

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association Reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado**  
**5-9 September 2012**

Please print all information and keep a copy of the form

Print Name(s) as you'd like them to appear on name tags

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guest name(s) for name tags (Use additional form or attach a note for more than one)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee: Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$140 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Registration Fee includes:**

Welcome Package, Hospitality Room, reception food; 3 Breakfast buffets: Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning; 2 Banquet Dinners: Friday and Saturday nights and administrative costs.

**FRIDAY Dinner choices: Chicken ( ) or Pork ( )**

**SATURDAY Dinner choices: Salmon ( ) or Chicken ( )**

**Thurs, Sept 6**

Tour A - Iron Springs Melodrama, Dinner and Bus (**min. 60**) Nmbr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Fri, Sept 7**

Tour B - Air Force Academy, Lunch and Bus Nmbr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Tour C - Cripple Creek, Bus (**min. 25**) Nmbr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Option to stop at the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine Nmbr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sat, Sept 8**

Tour D - Peterson AFB, Lunch and Bus (**no min.**) Nmbr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$27 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Tour E - Cog Railroad up Pikes Peak, Admission and Bus (**min. 20**) Nmbr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees for cancelled tours (due to low participation) will be refunded after the reunion.**

**Sun Sept 9**

I/we will attend Sunday Morning Buffet Breakfast? (*for head count only*) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Nmbr \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Total (registration fees, tours) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Golf:** at the Air Force Academy (**min. of 20**) Your Ghin# \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Nmbr \_\_\_\_\_ (Cost/fees TBD)

On Thursday would you rather play morning \_\_\_\_\_ or afternoon \_\_\_\_\_?

**Make your check payable to: 55<sup>th</sup> WA Reunion**

**Mail to: Sandy Feldkamp, 17575 Colonial Park Drive, Monument, CO 80132**

We suggest you make a copy of this form for your records

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM AND MAIL NLT JULY 31

**INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**  
(JUST TO MAKE YOU FEEL NOSTALGIC ABOUT THE OLD DASH-ONE,  
AND OR ASSORTED AF PUBLICATIONS AND REGULATIONS)

## The *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* Reunion Song

*To the tune of "Hey, Look Me Over"*

Hey! Look us over,  
The **Fifty-Fifth** is here.

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

We get together  
Every other year.

If ever a wing in SAC there was,  
The **55<sup>th</sup>**'s the best because,

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

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

Oh, the **55<sup>th</sup>**'s the first to fight,  
And we're always Number One.

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

*Written by Joe and Dottie Gyulavics and John and Reese Drost at the reunion in Seattle, August 1992*

*It may be sung in Dottie and Joe's memory in CSprings, so rehearse the words and tune now.*



