

Videmus Omnia

55th WING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013

2014 REUNION OMAHA/OFFUTT



The 55th Wing Association will hold its 30th reunion 9-13 April 2014 at Omaha/Offutt. Mark your calendars now and please plan on arranging your lives and schedules to attend.

This could be a tremendous event comparable to the Omaha/Offutt reunion in 2006, as it will be held at the same time as the 55th Wing's Heritage Week special events at Offutt AFB. This will be a rare opportunity for many of our members to participate in those activities.

The headquarters for the festivities will be the Embassy Suites in LaVista, NE. You can begin your planning by calling the hotel to make reservations at (402) 331-7400. Please use the group name "2014 55th Wing Association", or group code "FF1", to get the special reunion rate of \$102 per night (plus taxes and fees, of course).

You have until 10 March 2014 to make your reservations at the hotel. Anyone calling after that date will be told that the block is unavailable, and then offered the standard nightly rate, which is

higher. The Association has a limited number of rooms blocked, so it is imperative you book early for this great rate. Neither the Embassy Suites, nor your friendly Association reunion chairman, can guarantee those special rates after we sell out our committed rooms, so register without delay.

Reunion Chairman Don Kelly has laid the groundwork for another superior reunion. Don is a member of the Association Board of Directors and a former Deputy Operations Group Commander in the 55th Wing.



Kelly is pictured here at the 2006 reunion membership meeting delivering the 55th Wing Unit Mission Briefing when he was the Deputy OGC.

The reunion schedule of events, registration information and form are at the back of this newsletter. You are encouraged to post your check and registration form by 10 March. An envelope addressed to the reunion chairman is provided for your convenience.

Plans include generous hospitality suite hours, a Thursday evening dinner, a Friday informal

reception, and a variety of **optional** tours of Omaha attractions; and at Offutt to include a base history tour, aircraft displays, and the Hall of Fame induction ceremony and the *Tales of the 55th* event.

There will be the usual **membership meeting on Saturday morning** at the hotel. Members are urged to attend, and spouses and widows are welcome. **Good time to wear the Association polo.** Actually, anytime is a good time to wear it.

The reunion will culminate (*for those who chose to attend*) that evening by joining members of Team Offutt of all ranks, local dignitaries, and retirees at the gala 36th annual **55th Wing** Birthday Ball in the LaVista Embassy Convention Center Ballroom (*Attached to the hotel*).

This gala is the Wing's largest formal social event of the year. First held in January 1979 with the aim of connecting the active duty members to the heritage and storied history of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*. Attendance is usually between 800-900, about 10% of whom are **Association** members and guests, local and out of town. (*See related articles following in this issue*).

This could be a singular opportunity for those of you who have never attended this outstanding event to experience a truly grand evening of traditions, dining and dancing.

BALL SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

Association reunion attendees will have our own section of tables with assigned seating, as we usually do for our banquet.

Those who plan to attend the Ball should notify Max Moore who they want to sit with, and to coordinate with those folks to be sure they are coming, as well. Waiting until the reunion will be too late as the Ball seating coordination is done with Wing Protocol early that week.

Max's contact info is on pages 4 and 12. You can go as late as 1 April with this information.

We will do the best we can with the arranged seating depending on input, but all the reunion attendees will be in the same section, not scattered. There will be time to mingle during the social hour before the Ball, during intermission and after the Ball program.

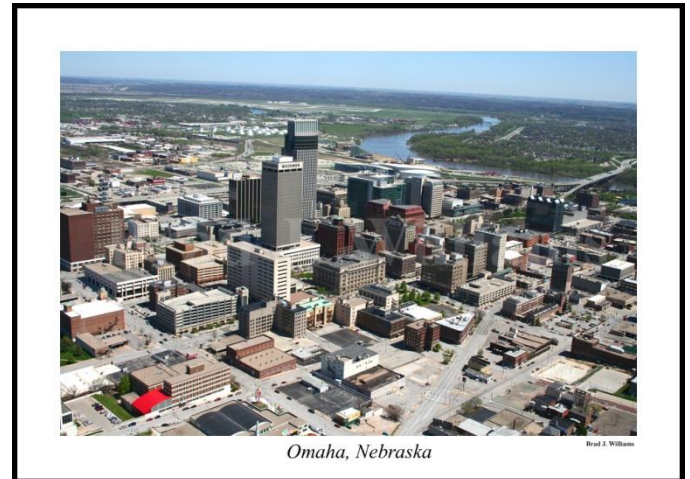
Recommended attire for gentlemen on this occasion will be the **Association** tie with dark business suit or navy blue jacket. Black tie/tuxedos

or dark business suit for other civilians. Mess dress for active duty. Ladies, dress however you like.

For those who elect **not** to attend the Ball, it will be dinner on your own Saturday night. The hospitality suite will be open during hours TBD.

You now have just enough info to whet the appetite for the BIG ONE. Plenty of time to make plans, buy a new **Association** polo shirt and get a 'regimental' tie. Register early and often. **Be here before you know it.**

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Yes, friends, Omaha has a skyline. The stockyards gave way many years ago to a cosmopolitan metropolitan entity. There is a vibrant, revitalized center city and a developing mid- and north downtown with a convention/event center, and a newer ballpark for the NCAA College World Series, generating the attendant bars and restaurants.

There is the world-class Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium; the highly regarded Joslyn Art Museum; Boys Town; the Durham Western Heritage Museum; Lauritzen Gardens; Orpheum Theatre; and the acclaimed state of the art, Holland Performing Arts Center that hosts the Omaha Symphony, and many big name acts and shows.

The eclectic Old Market has a variety of shops and eateries; and there are active community theaters; a plethora of famous steak houses, challenging golf courses, and three casinos on the Iowa side of Missouri River.

There are many new buildings and roads on Offutt. In fact, they are building a new \$1B USSTRATCOM headquarters on the site of the

former nine-hole golf course on Offutt. Come see for yourselves.

The former SAC Museum (*now called the Strategic Air and Space Museum*) near Ashland, NE, about 20 minutes from the Embassy Suites, houses numerous historic aircraft and displays. Among them the original memorial obelisk that was the model for the **55th SRW Cold War Memorial**, and a duplicate SAC Monument of the one at the National USAF Museum Memorial Gardens, near Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. There is a special section covering Cold War reconnaissance ‘hot’ incidents including those that involved **55th** aircraft and crews.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



The prez in WWII uniform, smoozes during a break at the 2013 Tales event.

Greetings from the Heartland.

Looks like the frigid Heartland in December is also dumping all that cold and white stuff over half the country. Bundle up! Some wild weather going on out there. T'was 9 degrees F here yesterday and 24 degrees F at Ft Wainwright, Alaska. I remember the days of December deployments to Eielson AFB when the weather was reversed like you would not expect. Those were the days....my friends.

Time marches on, and the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* continues to be the leading edge of our defense around the globe. If there is a threat that the **55th** is needed to work, you will find the Wing's unique mission capabilities present at the scene. That demand has not changed since the Cold War days.

What has changed is the size, kinds of missions and capabilities of the **55th**. There is an opportunity

coming for each of you to learn, or get an update on, these developments, as well as meet long time friends, and see the **55th** up close once again.

As voted on by the membership, our next reunion is just four months away. Our 30th reunion, something for the membership too be proud of, will be 9–13 April at Omaha/Offutt. This could be HUGE! It will be held at the same time as Heritage Week in the **55th** and will culminate with the *Tales of the 55th* on Friday and the Birthday Ball on Saturday. This is your chance to tour the Wing's facilities, get the latest unit mission briefing, see the *Tales of the 55th*, and participate in the Wing's largest annual social event, the Birthday Ball. Wow! What a deal.

The **55th Wing** is “on board” to make this a grand affair for all. **Colonel Greg Guillot** (*pronounced Gey [as in: key] – Oh. Yes, it's French*) has asked to address our membership and he will be on deck next. We welcome him to the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* and are looking forward to getting the word from the commander about the best wing in the US Air Force.

My favorite time of the year is upon us – the Holiday Season. Time to step back from the work-a-day life to smell the roses, relax, and just to reflect. May your holiday season offer you the opportunity to reflect, as well, and the chance to be with family and friends to make more priceless moments. All the best in the New Year.

Y'all be careful out there now.

Videmus Omnia, Jim

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FROM THE 55TH WING COMMANDER

Greetings *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* alumni!



This year has been interesting and challenging for our wing as we operate in this new fiscally-constrained environment.

Delivering disciplined, combat-ready airpower takes the work of outstanding airmen and teamwork from our six

groups. The airmen of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* came through in magnificent fashion. We kept the NAO (E-4) on 24-hour alert status, and manned Rivet Joint (RC-135) deployments in the Middle East for the 23rd consecutive year. For the third straight year, at least one COBRA BALL aircraft and crew was deployed around the globe every day of the year. 2013 also saw the COMBAT SENT deployed for six months, the OPEN SKIES aircraft was gone for five months, the CONSTANT PHOENIX aircraft departed just 17 hours after notification, and was gone for over four months, while our EC-130s flew more than 4800 combat hours on over 900 sorties. All of this while providing 24/7 communications support to the Nation's nuclear enterprise.

Due to the unique capabilities our wing contributes to the defense of our nation, we retained the majority of our flying hours, but we did see a ten percent cut in flying operations.

Our most severe cuts were in our general operating budget, which includes road and facility maintenance, utility bills, service contracts, and training TDYs. Through it all, *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* airmen continued to provide world-class support to the 57,000 extended members of our military community.

Additionally, in September the Wing earned an "Excellent" in HQ Air Combat Command's Consolidated Unit Inspection (*formerly called an ORI*); an "Excellent" in the Logistics Compliance Assessment Program; and an "Outstanding" in our Cyber Command network inspection.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the **55th Wing Association** Reunion and the **55th Wing** Birthday Ball in April 2014. I hope you will save time to explore the local area and visit such attractions as the nationally-recognized Henry Doorly Zoo, the historic Durham Museum, and the display of America's airpower at the Strategic Air and Space Museum.

I want to thank the **55th Wing Association** for all they do to help the **55th Wing** and the Birthday Ball. We are thankful to have an organization such as yours dedicated to preserving our heritage, and we highly value and appreciate your support.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Videmus Omnia, Colonel Greg Guillot
Commander, **55th Wing**



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Elvio Palmieri

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



TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 1 December 2013, the treasury had an account balance (rounded) of \$43,400.



Although the Association is solvent, we have expenses, obligations and bills to pay, such as this newsletter. **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, or in the memory of a comrade taking that final high flight. Those donations (NOT DUES) are tax deductible under an IRS ruling for the organization. Every amount, large or small, is much appreciated.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There were 578 members in good standing as 1 December 2013, compared with 623 on 31 December 2012.

Effective 1 April 2013, 57 members whose dues expired on the latter date above, and failed to renew were deleted from the members-in-good-standing roll. Regrettably, those whose dues expire on 31 December 2013, and do not renew by 1 April 2014, will be similarly put in the penalty box.

NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW.

Some members have paid for out years as far ahead as 2021.

About 170 widows receive the newsletter gratis, and they are welcome to any and all Association functions. Fifty-one 55th Wing units and offices are sent the newsletter for PR purposes, and to keep them connected with the Association.

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WHEN DO MY DUES EXPIRE?

That is the most asked question of the membership chairman. That date is on the address label to the RIGHT of your name in bold print: 20XX. Go look for the envelope you threw away, and it's there. Make a note.

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. When in doubt, send money.

Please pay your dues prior to 31 December of your expiration year, but no later than 31 March of the next year.

Mail to: 55th Wing Association

ATTN: Michael J. Cook

PO Box 13165

Offutt AFB, NE 68113

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You will find a membership/information update form at page 19 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.

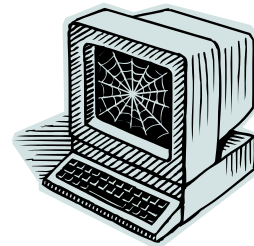
Please keep us informed of any changes in your address or other contact information. Invariably we get returned mail because of outdated addresses. Please help us stay current.

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YOUR 55TH WING ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

www.55wa.org

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 timely manner.



Another 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 members, or friends and families, to find the web site after an internet search, and reengage friends and comrades from their days with the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

The TAPS section has an alphabetical, as well as chronological, listing for easier research access to

the names and dates of those in the 55th family who have passed.

Also, be sure to check out, contribute, and “Like” our *Facebook* page at <http://www.facebook.com/55thAssociation>.

Check the web site regularly for updated information on the upcoming reunion and Birthday Ball. **There will be a page listing those who are planning to attend, when known.**

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Any member who wishes to read and/or download future **Association** newsletters from the web site, rather than receive them by snail-mail, can notify Michael Cook to **remove** his/her name from the newsletter **mailing list**.

This will save the **Association** some mailing costs, while allowing members to read it as soon as it is published, as well as read it wherever in the world one might be at anytime.

In order to do so, you will need to visit the “Members Only” page on the web site, and read the newsletter, or download it from there. **Simply request the username and password from the web-guy and you’re all set.**

You must be a dues paid, member-in-good-standing to gain the password and access.

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DINNER WITH NEW 55TH WING COMMANDER

Members of the Offutt-area 55th Wing **Association** met with 55th Wing Commander, **Colonel Gregory Guillot** for an informal social hour and dinner on 30 July 2013. The event was held at Piccolo Pete’s, a long time favorite restaurant in Sout’Omaha.

He is the eleventh commander to be so hosted in a tradition that began in 1997 by then-president **Bill Ernst**. This event allows the new commander to meet 55th veterans in a social setting early in his tenure. The group has **no** agenda other than the success of the Wing, and to let the commander know we have, and are, resources to be used to support that effort. This was an opportunity for the colonel to learn of the history and dedication of those who have supported the **Wing** and its missions for many years.

Colonel Guillot took command of the 55th on 19 June 2013. A 1989 Air Force Academy graduate, his previous command was the 552nd Air Control Wing, Tinker AFB, OK. He is a senior air battle commander.

The evening began with a meet-and-greet social time, during which Col Guillot got acquainted with those attending and learned of the history of the 55th ceremonial bell.



Max tells the tale of the bell. Colonel G is amused.

Those at the event were: **Association** Board Members, President Jim Thomas, Bill Ernst, Max Moore, Don Kelly (who flawlessly organized and coordinated the event), Jim Maloney and MSgt (Sel) Jeanette Johnson. Former wing commanders **Reg Urschler, Steve Stevens and Dan Peterson** were there; as were **Ham Kennedy, Dave Wolfe, Hank Rieden, Fred Schapker, John Tresmer, Tom Garrity, Bill Sargent, Roger Craig, Paul Jeanes, and Chris Canada.**

Thomas made a brief welcoming introduction, Col Guillot rang the bell, and the group enjoyed dinner. Each one there was given the opportunity to relate their time with the 55th in a crisp round-robin.

Col Guillot addressed the group expressing his pleasure with meeting everyone, hearing the stories, and the gathering in general.

Thomas presented him with one of the four remaining copies of **Bruce Bailey’s** book, *We See All, A Pictorial History of the 55th SRW*, just before the evening concluded.



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45th RECON SQUADRON COMMANDER'S CALL

The 45th Reconnaissance Squadron, Commanded by **LtCol Ross Bullock**, at Offutt AFB, NE, held a Commander's Call on Friday, 9 August 2013 to celebrate the unit's history and heritage of its varied missions over the past several decades.

The opening ceremony was held in the squadron's briefing and conference room, dedicated in the name of Chief MSgt (Retired) **Dennis Haun** in June 2007.



Bullock gave a presentation recounting the 24th/45th squadron's mission history to include its current composition and activities. There was open participation by several attendees who contributed details and vignettes adding to the overall history.

Among the packed room were former 45th commanders Roger Craig (24th), **Bo Marlin**, **Rich Wilson** (both of whom flew in for the festivities), **James Gapinski**, **Bruce Heylmun**, **Joe Spivey**, and **Ken Bauer**. Former 55th commanders and veterans of 45th mission forerunners, Reg Urschler and Steve Stevens attended, as did Dennis Haun. Other 55th Wing Association members attending were Jim Thomas, **Dick Purdum**, Max Moore, Bill Sargent, **Roland Saenz**, **King Hawes**, Paul Jeanes, **Stu Martin**, Chris Canada, and **Wes Thibideaux**.

After that session, the group moved to the squadron's newly renovated crew lounge and heritage room for refreshments.

The day's program and heritage room project were directed and coordinated by **Capt Alisha Scott**.

Bullock relinquished command of the squadron on 28 August to become a 55th Wing deputy operations group commander.



Pictured L to R: Bullock, Bauer, Heylmun, Gapinski, Marlin, Spivey, Wilson and Craig.

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55th WING HERITAGE WEEK

In March 2010 Association President Thomas proposed to the then-55th Wing Commander, **BGen John Shanahan**, that some wing units hold a series of events during the week leading up to the 55th 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, **7-12 April 2014**, Heritage Week will be celebrated and highlighted by such functions as the Ops Group Commander's Conference, the Wing Commander's Conference, gatherings at various squadrons, the *Tales of the 55th*, culminating with the main event, the annual 55th Wing Birthday Ball.

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

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HALL OF FAME

The induction ceremony will be held at 1500 on Thursday, 10 April 2014. Reunion attendees will have the opportunity to witness this recognition of a superior former member(s) of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

The selection process by the Association Awards Committee is on-going at press time and the inductee(s) will be announced with appropriate lead time before the reunion and Ball.

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TALES OF THE 55TH

The fifteenth edition will be held on Friday, 11 April 2014, Association President Thomas as honcho and emcee. Location is to be determined.

Reunion attendees will have the chance to attend this event featuring speakers from different eras of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* telling "there I was stories".



55th WING BIRTHDAY BALL

The 55th Wing will hold its 36th annual Birthday Ball, Saturday, 12 April, 2014 at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in LaVista. The gala event will be hosted by Colonel Greg Gulliot, 55th Wing Commander, and his wife, Caroline.



The Ball will celebrate the 73th 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.

The guest speaker has yet to be determined.

Dave Webber, a local TV personality, will again be the master of ceremonies. Dave served four years in the AF and was a member of the SAC Elite Guard in the early 1960s.

The Ball is attended by active duty personnel, retirees, local dignitaries, including many alumni and **Association** members. Last year's attendance was 840.

There is a certain amount of formality and protocol, **but it is not** a stiff, stuffy, pomp and circumstance. The program includes appropriate toasts, presentation of Hall of Fame inductee(s), and

the 2013 55th Wing Association Award for Excellence announcement and presentation.

This year's planning committee is headed by **Capt John Lavin of the 55th Medical Group**. The committee and workers are all volunteers who plan and execute this important event.

Moore and Ernst represent the **Association** as advisors to that committee, and the **Association** donates \$1000 every year to help defray the tickets for younger airmen.

In today's climate of sequestration, the world needs to know the following fact (it isn't new info, has always been so): **The 55th Wing Birthday Ball pays for itself. NO taxpayer dollars finance the event. It is paid for with 'ticket' sales, fundraising, sponsors and donors.**



EAST COAST 'CHAPTER'

Many east coast alumni, including active duty, retirees and 'beltway bandits', have occasional 'First Friday' social gatherings. Other events are organized periodically for reconnecting and camaraderie in the 55th spirit.

Ricky Mac and **Bo Marlin** plan to put together a gathering this winter. They want to hold a session with plenty of time to advertise and push the 2014 Reunion in Omaha.

For information on future 55th Wing Association East events, or to get on the e-mail listing, drop Ricky McMahon an e-mail with your contact information at potomacpistol@gmail.com, or find him on the Pentagon Global for those with access.



CSPRINGS/DENVER AREA

Kerm Neal is the man-what-am in Rocky Mountain country. **If you are interested in being included in future alumni events, or to get on his e-mail listing, send your contact info to him at Kermit.Neal@northcom.mil**



MEMORIAL BRICK ORDERS: STILL CAN DO

Fellow Members:

Bricks that were ordered in 2013 are in place in the memorial patio. An updated diagram of the patio layout is posted on the **Association** web site.

It is still possible to order new ones.

There may be some **55th** veterans and/or family members, friends, associates, who want to order bricks for the **55th SRW** Cold War Memorial patio in the National Museum of the USAF Memorial Gardens. **If you wish to buy a brick, or know of anyone who wants one, now is the time to place an order.**

Any new bricks will be placed when weather conditions permit next spring or summer.

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, semicolons or quotation marks.)**

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

Videmus Omnia, Bill

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Jack Kovacs reported on the latest brick installation in the Cold War Memorial patio:

On 19 September **Larry Morrison** of Dodds Monuments, met **Larry Laflair** and me at the Memorial. Larry did the work on his knees of installing the most recently ordered bricks. He pulled out the blank bricks and inserted the newly engraved ones.

Some of the surrounding bricks are a bit tarnished because of dampness, and some foot traffic soiled them.

The next day Larry and I were out there again sweeping the fill sand off the bricks along with cleaning some moss between the other bricks, and generally tidying up the area.

(Edited from an e-mail 20 September 2013.)

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T A P S

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BOVE, Robin, 90, 26 August 2013, Kerrville, TX. An Australian by birth, she was the widow of **Bernard (Bernie)**, an RB-47 navigator with the **55th SRW** at Forbes AFB, KS, in the late 1950s-early 1960s.

CARDER, Bradford E., 63, 19 February 2011, Portland, OR. Brad was in the **55th** Aircraft Maintenance Sqd at Forbes circa 1968-69. A Vietnam veteran, he served in the Oregon Air National Guard, retiring as a senior master sergeant.

COBB, Lawrence A. (Larry), 75, 5 November 2013, Greenville, TX; wife **Arlene**. A retired CMSgt Larry was inducted into the **55th Wing** Hall of Fame 2008. He was part of the cadre who implemented the move of the Wing from Forbes to Offutt AFB, NE. *(See following article)*

FERGUSON, Robert K. (Fergie) 81, 27 July 2013, LaFollette. TN. He was a EWO in the 343rd SRS at Forbes from 1957 to 1963. He then went to the 544th Intl Sqd at Offutt. Fergie was a 20 year Air Force vet who then worked for the US Postal Service from which he also retired.

HAYNES, Denny, 68, 18 August 2013, Bluffton, SC; wife, **Linda**. After a Vietnam tour in Wild Weasels, Denny came to the **55th** as an RC-135 EWO in the 343rd at Offutt in the mid-1970s.

HUNTER, James, 82, 29 December 2012, Charlotte, NC; wife of 58 years, **Laurie** (Dolores). Served as an EWO in the RB-47 in the **Wing** at Forbes from 1956-1962. The AF then sent him to the University of Colorado to become an electrical engineer. After leaving the AF, he was a GS in the DoD in Washington, DC, for 23 years.

MARLAND, William M., 72, 10 August 2013, Carmichael, CA; wife of 50 years, **Pat**. Bill was in B-52s before joining the 82nd SRS as an RC-135M EWO in the early 1970s. He later was a mission planner for U-2 and SR-71 at Beale AFB, CA. After Air Force retirement, he worked for the California State Franchise Tax Board.

MAYFIELD, Earl B., 75, 27 September 2013, Tarpon Springs, FL; wife, **Georgia**. Earl came to the 55th at Offutt circa 1970 after a tour in Vietnam as a Forward Air Controller. He was an RC co-pilot with **Jimmy Jones** when Soviet fighters intercepted and fired weapons ‘across the bow’ on 17 November 1970. After retiring from the AF, he had a career with Midwest Airlines.

MCKONE, John R., 81, 31 October 2013, Hardyville, VA; wife, **Norma Jean**. A 55th icon most known as a survivor of an RB-47 shot down by a Soviet MiG fighter on 1 July 1960, and imprisoned for seven months in Moscow. He was recognized at the 1999 55th Wing Birthday Ball Heritage Project as part of the original cadre of what became the 55th Wing Hall of Fame.

A military burial with honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, on 9 January 2014 at 0900, graveside ceremony only, no chapel service. A contingent of **Association** members is expected to attend.

(See following article)

ROSSER, William E., 88, 25 November 2013, Melbourne, FL; wife, **Eleanor (Ellie)**. Bill enlisted in the US Army Air Corps and served in WWII on bombers. After that and college he entered the Air Force during the Korean conflict. He was in the 55th SRW as an EWO in RB-50s at Ramey AFB, PR, and RB-47s at Forbes in the late 1950s and early 1960s. “Wild Bill” was a veteran of surveillance overflights of the USSR. He later served a year in Vietnam in 1971 and retired in 1975.

SMART, Terra (Terry), 67, 15 November 2013, North Charleston, SC; wife of **Halbert R. (Rudy)**. Rudy was an RC-135 EWO in the 82nd SRS at Kadena AB, Japan, and the 343rd SRS at Offutt, which he later commanded. Terry was very active in her community, church, and several organizations as a leader and volunteer.

STROTMAN, Bruce D., 81, 9 August 2013, Rockwall, TX. An Iowa native, pilot and Vietnam veteran with 75 combat missions, Bruce served as

the commander of the 97th Intel Sqd at Offutt from May 1979-August 1981 when he retired. He then worked for E-Systems and Raytheon at Greenville, TX, on the RC-135 modernization programs.

STROTMAN, Laura, 80, 29 December 2012, Rockwall, TX. She was the wife of Bruce for 58 years after they met at Iowa State.

WATSON, Dennis C., 78, 26 July 2013, Bellevue, NE; wife of 56 years, **Jane**. He was a co-pilot in RB-47s in the 343rd at Forbes in 1959-61. Transferred to bombers at Pease AFB, NH, he left the Air Force in 1963 and went into the heating/AC business. Denny flew fighters with Iowa and Louisiana Air Guards at various times.

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Lawrence A. (Larry) Cobb, CMSgt, USAF Retired, was born 8 November 1937, in Greenville, NC, and ironically, died in Greenville, TX, 5 November 2013.

Larry began his relationship with the 55th SRW in 1962 at Forbes, assigned to the 55th Aircraft Maintenance Sqd. He got his start working on the technical signals collection platform, the ERB-47H, a very early predecessor to the Combat Sent and the Cobra Ball aircraft of today.



In August 1966, Chief Cobb was part of the advance team that established the **Wing**'s presence at Offutt preparing for the unit move from Forbes.

He later transferred to the Inflight Maintenance Technician (IMT) shop and began a flying career in the RC-135C aircraft. From 1967 to 1971 he flew numerous operational missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and nine Air Medals.

Assigned to the depot at Greenville, TX, in August 1974, Chief Cobb organized the team to equip, modernize, and standardize the RC-135 aircraft to the new Rivet Joint configuration, to include pilot and navigator equipment. He led the effort to modify the fleet with the Air Force Satellite Terminal (AFSAT) and the LN-20 navigation system, integrating stellar, inertial, and doppler data into one program.

Chief Cobb served there until his retirement from active service in 1983. He then was employed as a Project Engineer for the RC-135 depot maintenance and flight test unit at Greenville.

For over 40 years his management and support had a major impact in developing and maintaining the **55th Wing's** combat mission capabilities. He was recognized for his service to, and accomplishments for, the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* with his induction into the **55th Wing** Hall of Fame in 2008.

(Edited from Chief Cobb's Hall of Fame induction information and obituary.)

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John McKone, Colonel, USAF Retired, was born on 16 June 1932, in Kansas City, MO. He was raised in Tonganoxie, KS, and graduated from Kansas State University and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Air Force through the AFROTC program on 31 July 1954, and went on active duty 15 March 1955.



After completing navigator training and B-47 Combat Crew Training, John served as an RB-47 navigator with the 90th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW) at Forbes AFB, KS. He moved to the **55th SRW** as an RB-47 navigator with the 343rd SRS at Forbes from July 1958 to January 1961.

On an initial operational mission out of the UK, his RB-47 was shot down in an unproved attack by a Soviet fighter over international waters above the Barents Sea north of Murmansk on July 1, 1960. The AC and three EWOs perished.

After surviving six hours in the water, John and the co-pilot, then-Capt Bruce Olmstead, were picked up by a Russian trawler and they spent the next seven months in Lubyanka Prison in Moscow where they endured solitary confinement, and intense and relentless interrogation.

Both were released after 208 days in captivity on 24 January 1961 as a goodwill gesture to newly inaugurated **President John F. Kennedy**. Their families, the president and other dignitaries met

their aircraft upon arrival at Andrews AFB, MD, and proceeded to the White House.

They were featured on the 2 February 1961 cover of **TIME** Magazine. A book entitled, *The Little Toy Dog*, written by **William L. White**, relates the full story of this incident.

Both men were eventually awarded the Prisoner of War Medal, and the Silver Star for their valor while incarcerated. The latter was presented at the 2004 Air Force Association Convention in DC.

John served as a Special Assistant to the **55th SRW** Commander at Forbes from January to August 1961, followed by an AFIT assignment to complete a master's degree in International Relations at the University of Pittsburgh, PA, 1961-1962. He next completed Intelligence Officer training, and then served as an Interrogator Controller at the survival school at Stead AFB, NV, from December 1962 to August 1964.

After various assignments in Germany and the US, now-Colonel McKone became Commander of the 44th Combat Support Group at Ellsworth AFB, SD, 1978 to 1980; followed as Commander of the 3902nd Air Base Wing at Offutt, from July 1980 until his retirement from the Air Force on 1 September 1983 after 28 years active service.

John was an Eagle Scout with over 40 years of service as a volunteer and professional Scout. He was active in his church, and was a Gideon having served as President of the Mid-Tidewater camp; as a Rotarian, John was a past President and Past District Governor. He was a Mason, member of the Scottish Rite and the Shrine.

(Edited from Colonel McKone's obituary and multiple other sources.)

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Editor's Notes: The last issue of the *Videmus Omnia* **misreported** the passing of **Mary Britton**, widow of **Ray**. *Hate it when that happens.*

In an October e-mail, her daughter **Sallee** reported Mary is still with us. Happier information.



Mea culpa on the bad intel and an obituary found on a different Mary Britton. Apologies were sent to Mary and Sallee.

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TAPS notification of **Association** members, spouses, friends and associates 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 an Association condolence card may be sent.

The date of demise, age, location; and if known, connection to the 55th - base, time frame and Air Force duty will be helpful.

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

Prior to January 2000, just the names of those 'Gone West' were published herein, and on the Association web page, so research sources on those who were previously listed is thin.

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MAIL 'N STUFF



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Max:

You will be proud of me - I have already made my hotel reservation for next April's bash (*reunion*). By the way, you may mention to the crowd when appropriate, **that while there, I will be happy to sign books** for anyone who brings them.

Best to you, **Wolf Samuel**, Fairfax Station, VA.
(From an e-mail, 24 July 2013.)

(A list of Wolf's books can be found on the Association web site.)

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Greetings: (From **Ken Urtz** addressed to several former 55th comrades.)

Flying with my current airline, Atlas Air, has allowed me to revisit places where I have spent some quality time in the past while working alongside you and the others of the recon world.

This week I have traveled to Osan, Misawa, Yokota, and now, Kadena Air Bases. Although we don't stay in base billeting at our layovers in Korea and Japan, I have traveled on base at Osan, Misawa, and Kadena. I can proudly say that PACAF is taking care of the airmen very well.

Kadena is barely recognizable (*from our times there*), with a lot of growth and new flying squadrons. There are at least one F-22 squadron and two F-15 squadrons based there. There is a new BX/commissary complex that is probably the largest within PACAF, maybe even throughout the USAF.

They still have an officer's club, although I didn't go by it, I just perused the website. Our favorite skoshi KOOM. (*Kadena Officer's Open Mess*) has been renamed Jack's Place, which probably means that it is an all ranks facility. There is a Chili's on the base!

According to the taxi driver, Charlie's Tacos is still on BC Street. My hotel is on the opposite side of the base, along the water, so I didn't make it there this time.

While I was out walking this morning, I had the distinct pleasure of watching the COMBAT SENT aircraft on departure. What a small world, huh? Shortly afterwards, I saw a tanker takeoff. I'm assuming it was following the SENT.

My airline has a contract with a hotel next to Sunset Beach, which is in Chatan Town. I vaguely remember some crew members talking about it. They have built up an "American Village" around it, which is a clever way to attract tourists to many boutiques, restaurants, bars, and children's amusement facilities.

Aloha, **Ken Urtz**, Miami Lakes, FL.
(From an e-mail 8 August 2013)

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*The following contribution is an edited compilation of e-mailed stories and recollections from **Richard (Dick) Keen**, a career maintenance officer who served in the 55th SRW from 1964 to 1968 at Forbes and Offutt. (August 2013)*

In my 26 years in the Air Force I never had a bad assignment, but my time in the 55th SRW provided some of my very fondest memories. First and foremost, as a direct result of being assigned to the 55th, I met my wonderful wife, **Candy**, niece of

Sam Davis, a one-time EWO in the **55th** at Forbes AFB, KS. We have been married for 44 years.

Some background on myself: I was a young maintenance officer in the 40th Bomb Wing at Forbes. When it shut down in 1964, I was transferred into the **55th**. Most of my time was spent at overseas operational locations (OLs): a 3-4 month tour at OL 1 in the UK; and several longer tours at OL 7 (Clark AB) in the Philippines. I was a bachelor at the time, so it was okay with me.

We first deployed as a detachment of the **55th** to Clark in the summer of 1965. The project involved two RB-47s, tail numbers 295 and 296, and crews. It was called the *Lightning Bug* Project. As I recall, the aircraft commanders were Major **Bill Bowker** and Capt "**Mitch**" **Michaud**. Others on the crews included **Dan Curzon**, **Ham Kennedy**, **Lloyd Navarro**.

We also forward-deployed a portion of the detachment personnel to Bien Hoa in Vietnam to work with the 100th SRW folks at OL 20. About 30 of us went to Bien Hoa on that initial deployment and stayed for a couple of months.

Because of the unique system of Operating Locations at the time, and SAC's aversion to sending aircrews, aircraft and support personnel PCS, I was given opportunities probably unlike any other young maintenance officer. At OL 7 there were at most times, just four staff officers, including myself and the Det. Commander, **Colonel Dan Gunn**, who was TDY from Det 1, 3rd Air Division, at Yokota AB, Japan, so I was allowed to diversify and work on Operations Orders.

There were only two people in the Philippines with the needed security clearances to be read-in on our mission: the 13th Air Force Commander and the US Ambassador to the Philippines.

I remember a time when the 13th Commander, **General "Whip" Wilson**, came in for an update briefing. Our detachment office was in the 13th Air Force Intelligence Secure Facility. The 13th AF intel director and his deputy followed the general into the room where we worked. When the general realized they were there (and without proper clearance), he threw them out with a torrent of expletives following them down the hall. Now that left an impression on me, who as a first lieutenant, sat rigid and stone silent in the rear of the room.

As a result of my relationship with the Davis family, Sam's son **Stuart** recently asked for my assistance in ID'ing the other crewmembers in a photo he found of his dad. He also hoped to figure out the photo's origin.

By starting with the **55thWA** web site, I contacted Max Moore, the **Association** newsletter editor, and his knowledge and 'sleuthing' came up with the info.

RB-47 Crew E-80,
L to R: 1Lt **Bob McMahon**,
nav, **Tom Hoose**, CP, **Sam Davis**, EWO.

(Unfortunately, the image is reversed; nametags, Lt bars, on wrong side, etc.)



Best 'guesstiments' are that the picture was taken on a late 1950s RB-47 deployment to Yokota AB, Japan. Given that it is a photo of three young crew members, a nav, a pilot and an EWO all in "party suits", the significance is that this was probably the first OL trip for the three of them. Hence the impractical white flight suits with belts and oversized cargo pockets.

Once I learned it was Tom Hoose, the story gets more personal. I was one of the Flight Line Maintenance Officers that tragic day in late 1966 at Forbes. Tom was killed in a freak airborne accident during in-flight refueling on an AC-upgrade training flight.

Veteran **55thers** might recall that the tanker was a bird (*Casey 01*) based at Offutt and maintained and crewed by the **55th**, which made the news even more difficult.

When the boom broke loose, not only did it come through the cockpit, striking Hoose, it also punched a hole in the right wing which meant, as I recall, the crew couldn't fully lower the flaps.

The IP was Major **Dave Whayne**. They all survived because he was following the rules during refueling and had his oxygen mask on with the visor down. Had he not had his visor down, he could have been blinded. When the incident happened, control of the plane was lost for a period and it dropped several thousand feet. Whayne was able to regain control and recover the aircraft. (*The navigator was*

BJ Bates, also on board were EWO **James Webb** and **SSgt Clifton Helmig**.)

I also recall that there was another crewmember on-board, **Colonel Charles Paxon**, who was the **55th** Vice CC and the senior commander of the **55th** detachment at Forbes (*the Wing HQ and squadrons had already stood up at Offutt and awaited the arrival of RC-135s.*)

The IP made a perfect landing and then taxied to a side taxiway where the aircraft was met by staff, ground and medical personnel. After Tom's body was removed and some initial photography was done, the plane was turned over to another maintenance officer, **Phil Metzler** (*who later retired as a major general*) and me. We were tasked to take charge of the aircraft to make sure it was safe and secure until the accident investigation team took over.

It was a very surreal and tragic day. I was never able to look Col Paxon in the eyes after that day as I knew what he had been through and I just couldn't address it.

(An expanded version of this missive is posted on the 55WA web site's Memory Lane.)

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OLD CROWS CELEBRATE GETTING OLDER



Pictured inset, cutting the ceremonial cake at the annual Association of Old Crows convention banquet in Washington, DC, 30 October 2014, are (*Left*) **Brian Finck** of BAE Systems, and **David Sjolund**, **55th** Association life member. They represent the youngest and most senior 'crows' attending the event.

The occasion kicked off a year-long celebration of the AOC's 50th year, which hits in 2014.



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Of note is that there is movement afoot to revive the AOC Strategic Roost at Offutt, which has been inactive for a few years. *Caw, caw!!!*

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ASSOCIATION VP RICKY MAC RECOGNIZED

Association Vice President Ricky McMahon was selected as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition Directorate's (AQI) Air Force Association's (AFA) annual Hero Award recipient.

The presentation was made on 25 November 2013 at the AFA Salute to the Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition (SAF/AQ) reception and awards presentation at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington VA.

Over the past seven years, Ricky has been at the center of BIG SAFARI efforts to address the United Kingdom's long term planning for a replacement for the Royal Air Force's Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft. His work on the UK Rivet Joint "Airseeker" program included gaining Secretary of the Air Force's approval to allot three USAF KC-135s to support the arrangement with the UK Ministry of Defence. (*No typo, Brit spelling.*)

During the last five years, Ricky has sponsored 12 US/UK working group meetings and five executive program management reviews laying the foundation for this benchmark US-UK partnership in the Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) arena, producing a Steering Committee Charter and four pivotal Memorandum of Understanding program agreements.

His efforts recently culminated in the delivery of the first aircraft to RAF Waddington's 51 Sqn on 12 November 2013.

Congratulations to a superior leader and performer. HooRah!!!

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In related notes: the initial cadre RAF RC-135 crewmembers were trained at the 55th's 338th Combat Crew Training Sqn (CCTS) schoolhouse beginning in January 2010. A full story on that program was reported in the February 2011 issue of Videmus Omnia.

The 338th CCTS in its current form was founded by one-each Ricky McMahon. In January 1998 he was assigned to stand up 55th OpsGroup/OG for Training. He led the effort to get approval for the Flying Training Unit within the 55th Wing, and on 20 September 1999, the activation ceremony for 338th CTS took place with McMahon as its first commander. He commanded the squadron until March of 2001

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BRITS RECEIVE THEIR FIRST RC-135 AIRSEEKER

Royal Air Force Boeing RC-135V Rivet Joint ZZ664, the first of three for the 51 Squadron, was delivered to RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire, UK, 12 November 2013.

The aircraft departed Greenville, TX, where the conversion was accomplished by L-3 Communications personnel, flying to Bangor, ME, for a refueling stop. Using call sign 'SAME 40', then continued to make the trans-Atlantic crossing, changing to call sign 'Vulcan 51' when it transferred to UK military air traffic control.



*Airseeker taxis in at RAF Waddington
Photo by Jerry Gunner, Air Forces Daily*

The first aircraft slated for retrofit arrived at Greenville on 14 December 2010, as a KC-135R. It was then converted by L-3 into Rivet Joint configuration and test flown on 31 July, 2013.

Completion of its flight test schedule sooner than anticipated enabled early delivery of the aircraft to Waddington, although it will not enter operational service with the RAF until late 2014.

Ordered under *Project Airseeker*, the three RC-135s will provide the RAF with a new SIGINT

capability, replacing 51 Squadron's Nimrod R1s, which were retired on 28 June 2011.

Since 2011 the RAF's 51 Squadron personnel have been participating alongside their USAF colleagues in preparation for the UK aircraft entering service. UK crews have already achieved in excess of 32,000 flying hours on over 1800 training and operational sorties as part of the 55th Wing, based at Offutt AFB, NE.

The first RAF aircraft will be followed by two more, ZZ665 and ZZ666 which are scheduled to be delivered in 2015 and 2017, respectively.

(Edited from an article in Air Forces Daily, 13 November 2013.)

(Editor's note: Many 55th alumni contractors and current active duty personnel in the Pentagon, at Dayton, Greenville, et al, and with the 338th CCTS at Offutt, have been prominent and instrumental in the Airseeker program in planning and execution from its inception into the present.)

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FLAGS FLOWN OVER THE AIR FORCE MEMORIAL ARE AVAILABLE

*From an Air Force Association Bulletin
August 2011*



The Air Force Memorial staff now makes available for purchase, **US flags** 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 \$6 shipping and 5% Virginia sales tax). Nylon is recommended if the flag will be flown outside. You may also choose a **specific significant date** on which you would like the flag flown over the Memorial.

For specific and updated information, contact the Air Force Memorial staff at Ph: 703-979-0674, or go to afmf@airforcememorial.org, click on the 'Flag Flying Request' link to download the order form.

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NEWSLETTER INPUTS WELCOME

Here is how members can help diversify the coverage in Videmus Omnia: Editor's usual plea: If anyone wishes to contribute letters, true humorous or otherwise stories, photos and articles, please do so. Send them to MaxMoore55@aol.com, or mail to the address in the directory. We welcome the input.

If events occur in your area (Florida, DC area, Denver/CSprings, Texas, California, wherever) 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 arrange and 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.

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

Thanks, and Videmus Omnia, Max.



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ASSOCIATION BX

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**ORDER STUFF NOW IN TIME
FOR THE REUNION.**

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ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

These are 'must have' items for any reunion events; 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 (phasing out) design is white with red collar and sleeve trim, navy blue front placket. They are 100% pre-shrunk combed cotton pique. **The cost is \$20 per shirt plus postage and handling. Just four mediums remain in this style.** This style 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 requested. **The cost of this version is \$35 each.**

Be sure to state which design and size you want to order.

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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 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 **Association** reunion banquets and other appropriate events.

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Larry advises that the next ordered batch of shirts and/or caps will likely go up in price, as it is with most things these days. So, it would be wise to order items now to have on hand and to be ready for the next reunion.

Anyone desiring to purchase any of the advertised items 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, and Larry will mail your orders promptly.

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55TH FASHION PINS



(Shown 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 from the sales. But, as a service for those who wish to possess same: **Erwin's Jewelers, Frank Kumor**, proprietor, (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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HISTORIC PRINTS

George Back donated prints of two of his paintings to the **55th Wing Association**. The first print (20"x15") depicts the North Korean MiG attack on an RB-47 of the **55th SRW** in April 1965.

The second print (26"x16") is a montage of COMBAT APPLE memorabilia from the 82nd SRS at Kadena AB, Okinawa, during the Vietnam era, 1967-1974.

These prints are available for \$20 each (which includes shipping) by contacting Larry Utley. Make checks to the **55th Wing Association**.

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55TH FIGHTER GROUP LITHOGRAPH

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

To purchase same: contact Larry Utley (*who else?*) at contact info above in the tie blurb. Costs are: (unframed) basic lithograph, \$60, plus \$8 postage; (unframed) lithograph **numbered and signed** (there are nine), \$100 plus \$8 postage.

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

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Please note that all of the above merchandise will be available during the reunion, supply permitting. But, don't wait, order now to secure the desired items in your size.

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REUNIONS

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**STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
15-18 MAY 2014
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY**



Save the date and plan on joining other SAC Cold Warriors at Sam's Town Casino and Hotel on the riverfront in Shreveport, LA, home of Barksdale AFB. More information will be forthcoming in letters, emails and on the **Association** web site as it becomes available.

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WHO SHOT WHAT

Pictures not previously attributed: Jim Maloney for the reunion logo; Kelly, CC dinner, 45th CC call, and 55th pin by Moore; Thomas at *Tales* from Strike himself; Col G's official AF photo; Ball logo by **Josh Plueger**, 55th Wing Public Affairs (PA); bricks by Kovacs; Old Crow cake shot from Errol Hoberman; **Association** shirt/cap by Utley; tie by Pizzo; 'Mad Max' at desk graphic by **Patricia (copper) Gros**

Reunion tour site pictures, graphics and organization logos from various sources and web sites (*Omaha, Offutt, AF Memorial, et al.*).

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AIR FORCE MUSEUM EXPANSION PROJECT ADVANCES

The Army Corps of Engineers selected contractors to present design-build proposals for the expansion of the National Museum of the US Air Force in Dayton, OH, museum officials announced. This is the second phase of the process for the museum's fourth building.

It is scheduled for opening in late 2015, according to the museum's 8 August 2013 release.



Contractors were to submit their proposals by 2 October 2013 and the contract is scheduled for award in late 2013.

The planned 224,000-square-foot hangar will house aircraft from the Presidential gallery, including President Kennedy's Air Force One; the research and development gallery, including the XB-70 bomber prototype; and vehicles from the space gallery, among other exhibits.

(Report by **Rob Bardua**, relayed by Jack Kovacs, Fairborn, OH, 14 August 2013.)

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Videmus Omnia



55th Wing Association, Inc.

(Formerly – 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(Address Update)

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 October is extend to 31 December of following year

**** Note – Dues expiration date – 31 December**

***Note - Questions? **Contact Michael J. Cook, Membership Chairman, at Michael.Cook@cox.net, or at the above mailing address, or call (402) 578-5848.**

20 May 2012

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