

Videmus Omnia

55th WING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2014

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Heartland:

It's a wrap... in the history books... a most successful reunion for the **Association** and another mission accomplished for the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*. The idea was to bring together the past and the present in celebration of the heritage of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*. Heritage Week and a **55th Wing Association** reunion was just such an opportunity.

Reunion Chair **Don Kelly** and his committee planned, organized and executed this extraordinary event. **Brigadier General (select) Greg Guillot** and Team Offutt went "All In" to support the joint event. Logistical support, base tours, briefings, wing volunteers ... wherever the active duty could assist, the **55th Wing** was all over it. A team effort makes the difficult look easy. That was the case here and it was truly a great success.

The bar just keeps getting higher on these reunion events. We will endeavor to "chin up" to that bar with our next reunion. Location not nailed down yet; but, we are doing some target searching.

A word about the **Association** treasury and its financial status. We are now in good financial health due to you, our loyal membership, a frugal Board and a diligent treasurer. Most of the treasury is, however, out-year money (dues). Dues and donations are what sustain the **Association**.

Member numbers continue to decline, although at a small rate, despite constant efforts of Mike, Max, Ricky, and other individual members bringing in ones and twos here and there. Recruiting new numbers remains a priority. We are getting into member numbers that impact the annual bottom line of maintaining our current level of activities. Efforts to hold the line on new spending, recruit new members and hold old ones will be maintained.



Our Fearless Leader as a FAC in 'Nam 1972

The **Association** is a 501(C)19 tax exempt, veterans organization. As such, taking maximum advantage of various tax exempt provisions in the law, 95% of our members must be veterans.

We modified our membership form in 2012 to include some of your military service information. That information is the years when served and in which unit of the **55th**. This is our attempt to maintain the best practical data without privacy concerns being an issue; and if the IRS audits us, we can say that we gave this matter our honest attention and are in compliance with the tax codes.

If you have not filled out a recent May 2012 membership application, as if you joined years ago, go to our web site, make a copy and mail in to **Mike Cook** at P.O. Box 13165, Offutt AFB, NE, 68113. We will keep a copy and our records can be updated.

FYI notice to all members: Please see the Call for Nominations, **55th Wing** Hall of Fame 2014, on the **Association** web site **55WA.org**. Link off the home page to **HQ** for criteria and procedures to follow. Nominations are due to the Awards Chairman NLT 1 December 2014.

Summer is finally upon us. Many will be out and about more, we hope. It is great to start the summer with the successes the **Association** has had this year.

I welcome to our new Board members, and look forward to our “association” together as the keepers of the **55th Wing Association**. Let us all continue to “dance like nobody’s watching”, and as always...y’all be careful out there now. Awaiting your read is another Maximus master piece.

Cheers and *Videmus Omnia, Jim*.



OMAHA/OFFUTT 2014 REUNION RECAP



The **55th Wing Association’s 30th reunion, 9-13 April 2014, at Omaha/LaVista/Offutt AFB, NE**, was another in the long line of memorable gatherings of **55thers**.

Held in conjunction with the **55th Wing’s** Heritage Week at Offutt, this was a rare opportunity for many of our members to witness and participate in those activities first hand.

Reunion

Chairman **Don Kelly** (*Shown here with wife, Melinda*), a member of the **Association** Board of Directors, and a former **55th Wing Operations** Group Deputy Commander,



planned, orchestrated, and executed a full and varied slate of events for the nearly 200 attendees.

Ably assisting in the planning and logistics of the agenda were reunion committee members: **Melinda Kelly, Bill Ernst, Jim Maloney, Paul Jeanes, Denny Haun, Ham Kennedy, Chris Canada, Max Moore, Mary Howe, MSgt Jeannette Johnson**; and **Association** coordinators: **Jim Thomas, Mike Cook**.

Activities included generous hospitality suite hours (always a popular venue), a golf outing, a Thursday evening dinner at the historic and picturesque Joslyn Castle in Omaha; the Friday informal reception, and a variety of optional tours of Omaha attractions; and at Offutt to include a history tour, aircraft displays, control tower tour, the Hall of Fame induction ceremony and the *Tales of the 55th* event.

There were two Board meetings and the usual membership meeting on Saturday morning, 12 April at the hotel.

The reunion culminated with the **55th Wing** Birthday Ball Saturday night. **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 *Fighting’ Fifty-Fifth*. Attendance is usually between 800-900, about 10% of whom are **Association** members and guests, local and out of town.

This was a singular opportunity for those who had never attended this outstanding event to experience a truly grand evening of traditions, dining and dancing with the active members of the Wing and local dignitaries.

This year there were about 940 at the Ball and about 240 were Association members and guests.

Just as much a part of the reunion was the hotel’s Sunday brunch when numerous reunion alums gathered once again for more commiserations, and to say ‘good byes’.

By any measuring device, this was a great reunion, well executed and appreciated by those attending.

(See related articles following).



The various tours of Omaha area attractions, such as the Old Market and museums, were well

attended, but by far the most popular was the Friday tour of Offutt AFB, seeing the many changes in infrastructure, the new USSTRATCOM building work-in-progress, aircraft displays, etc.

A highlight was lunch at the Patriot Club (formerly the Officers Club) when a mini-*Tales of the 55th* broke out.

LtCol Messina of the 45th RS told of an Open Skies treaty inspection mission to Russia last year



where the aircraft and crew were diverted from their objective base due to bad weather. They had to spend 52 hours at a

location not expecting them, and with no counterpart support. Coordination was a drill to get fuel, have it paid for, and get clearance to leave the country all while living under pax terminal conditions, and with less than appetizing cuisine. *Borscht with weenies?*

Captain Shaun Herr, a navigator on the 38th RS crew selected as the 2013 O'Malley Award winner as the most outstanding reconnaissance crew in the USAF, related the crew's experience providing critical air support to US and Coalition forces during combat operations in Afghanistan.

Their presentations were well received by the group as evidenced by a short question and answer session before heading out on the remainder of the base tour, and winding up at the actual *Tales* event.

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55TH WING ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES 12 APRIL 2014

(Caveat: Following is an abbreviated version of the actual minutes for this newsletter only. The official minutes are archived for the records and posted on the Association web site.)

President Jim Thomas opened the meeting at 0835, noting that the announcement for the meeting

was published in the December 2013 newsletter, and that a quorum was present.

After welcoming remarks, he gave the president's report: The relationship with the **55th Wing** at Offutt remains well established and ongoing. He explained that the regular interactions with the **Wing's** senior staff was the **Association's** executing the Hall of Fame process, the Award for Excellence; and coordination for the reunion, the *Tales of the 55th*, and the Birthday Ball. All of which gives the **Association** positive exposure to the active duty force.

Minutes of the last membership meeting in Colorado Springs in September 2012 were published in the January 2013 issue of the *Videmus Omnia* and on the **Association's** web site. Max Moore moved to dispense with reading of the minutes. Seconded by many and carried.

Announcement was made of the awarding of Life Memberships to two retiring Board members, **Larry Utley** and **Dennis Haun**, who have both served the **Association** faithfully and with



dedication for many years. Also awarded with a Life Membership was **Larry La Flair**, recognized for his many years devoted to the stewardship and upkeep of the **55th SRW** Cold War Monument at the National USAF Museum Memorial Park near Dayton.

Treasurer Michael Cook then gave an extensive report on membership and finances. As of 1 April there were 535 members in good standing. He once again explained the timing for dues payment: They come due each January after a member's expiration date on 31 December of that year. There is a grace period to 1 April before being dropped from the rolls. Sixty-one lapsed members were dropped as of 1 April 2014.

Cook stressed the need for members to keep their contact information updated and urged using the May 2012 membership form when paying dues and updating any changes of address, etc.

Thomas reiterated the **Association's** IRS 501(C) 19 tax exempt status and the requirement to comply

with 95% veteran members, and the requirement to keep our tax exempt advantages.

He emphasized that the **Association** must maintain documentation with the best practical data on its members' veteran status to prove to the IRS, should we be audited, that we have the required percentages of veterans.

As of 1 April 2014, the treasury had \$44,585. The 2014 budget was approved by the Board in January. Projections for income and expenditures were shown to be in good order for the immediate future.

Webmaster Jim Maloney presented a video demonstration of the **Association's** web site, to include: the diverse content, how to navigate, *Facebook* addition, various links, and available information access on the site; Memory Lane and heritage videos, to name but a few of the sections.

Bill Ernst gave a brief review of the Cold War Monument's history and evolution. He stated that memorial bricks can still be ordered. Information on how to order is on the web site and in each issue of the newsletter. New bricks will be placed this spring when the weather is suitable.

Ernst also mentioned that the Sarpy County (Neb) National Veterans Cemetery is on track and funded. It will have a monument section and he suggested the **Association** consider commissioning one for the **55th SRW/Wing**. This topic will be discussed at future Board of Directors meetings and moved for membership approval if/when it progresses. OPEN item.

Moore then gave a short list of 'etiquette hints' for the Ball on check-in, seating arrangements, etc. He stated that for many this was a first time experience and it should be an enjoyable one for all attendees. A great way to wind up this reunion in style.

Thomas then opened the discussion about when and where to have the next reunion. There being no pre-planned location or volunteer, the subject is TBD. Various suggestions were made about timing, but it was generally agreed to staying with the 18 month rotation, which means shooting for the fall of 2015.

San Antonio was mentioned, but with no one to chair a reunion there, the discussion only got so far as **John Olivo** rising to say he wasn't a volunteer reunion chair, but that he would do the research on

costs and hotels, and report back to the Board for future action, if any, by those willing to head same. OPEN item.

Terry Murphy took the floor to heap effusive praise on **Don Kelly** and his committee for how well organized and run this reunion went in every phase. "It is also the most fun!" he commented. He stated he has been to many other organizations' reunions and none are executed so well. Murphy had kudos for the enlisted active duty volunteers in the hospitality suites and on the tours. He further expressed his confidence in the Board of Directors for "running a solid organization"; he especially praised the Offutt area contingent for their outstanding relationship with the **Wing**.

Pres Thomas recognized **VPres Ricky McMahan** as nomination chair to discuss the slate for the Board of Directors for the membership election. His charge was to seek out members of his peer group of **55th** alumni over a diverse geographic spectrum of the country. He looked at areas where members are concentrated, such as: Colorado Springs, central Texas, Virginia/DC area, Offutt-area, etc. The object being to look toward the 'next generation' of leadership for the **Association**.

The results were to nominate **Jeff Herd, Trish Seinwill, Paul Jeanes, Val Dugie, and Colonel Mohan Krishna** (*inbound to be the 55th Ops Group Commander in May.*) The remaining nominees are current BoD members: Jim Thomas, Ricky McMahan, Michael Cook, **Sam Pizzo, Don Griffin, Bill Ernst, Max Moore, Errol Hoberman, Jim Maloney, Don Kelly, George Ross, Fox Censullo, Pete Glenboski, and Kevin Todd**, totaling 19 nominees for the maximum positions stated in the bylaws.

Murphy moved to accept the slate of nominees as presented. Seconded by **Al Feldkamp**. Motion carried in voice vote.

Thomas opened the floor for further nominations. There were none.

Rudy Smart moved the nominations be closed, and that the slate be elected by acclamation. Seconded by **Bill Simon** and others. Motion carried.

As business of the membership was concluded, the meeting adjourned at 1000.

Respectfully submitted,
Max R. Moore, Acting Secretary

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(Noteworthy regarding the BoD election: although there have been women on the Board before, they were active duty representatives. Thus, **Trish Seinwill** is the first **elected** woman Director.

Colonel Mo Krishna had served on the BoD before as an active duty representative (Sep 09-Sep 12, and is now an elected member. There have been other **elected** active duty representatives.

Those were elected by the membership in May 1998, October 1999 and May 2001. When it became obvious that the turnover rate, and timing of when active duty personnel left the **Wing**, did not make it practical to have an election by the general membership, the selection/replacement process was established as it currently exists: nominated by the **55th Wing Commander**, approved by the **Association Board of Directors**.)

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55th WING ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - 12 APRIL 2014 (Election of officers)

The meeting, held immediately after the **Association** Membership Meeting, was called to order by President Jim Thomas at 1005, who welcomed the newly elected members of the Board.

Constituting a quorum, also attending were VP Ricky McMahon, Treas. Mike Cook, Bill Ernst, Jim Maloney, Fox Censullo, George Ross, Don Kelly, Max Moore (acting secretary), and newly elected directors, Patricia (Trish) Seinwill, Val Dugie, Paul Jeanes and Jeff Herd.

Absent BoD members: Kevin Todd, Errol Hoberman, Don Griffin, Sam Pizzo, Pete Glenboski, newly elected Mohan Krishna, and MSgt Jeannette Johnson.

Pres Thomas turned the floor over to Moore.

Moore moved that the current office holders, except for secretary, be re-elected. Motion had multiple seconds, and carried by voice vote.

Moore then nominated Trish Seinwill for election as secretary. Motion seconded by many and carried.

Thomas indicated the appointed positions of Membership chair, Historian, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor and Enlisted Liaison would continue in those assignments. (See following *Directory*) Larry Utlej had stated earlier that he

would continue as the **Association** POC for sales until such time as another volunteer could take over.

Meeting adjourned at 1015.

Respectfully submitted,

Max R. Moore, Acting Secretary



55th Wing Assn Board of Directors at the 12 April meeting: L-R: Moore, Herd, McMahon, Kelly, Cook, Dugie, Censullo, Maloney, Ernst, Ross, Seinwill, Jeanes, Thomas.

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DIRECTORS DIRECTORY

Association Business/Policy/Awards:

President Jim Thomas

4418 Anchor Mill
Bellevue, NE 68123-1168
E-mail: JThomas927@aol.com

Vice President Ricky McMahon

14325 Orlando Road
Nokesville, VA 20181
E-mail: potomacpistol@gmail.com

Membership/Dues/Changes of Address:

Treasurer Michael Cook

3204 Rahn Blvd
Bellevue, NE 68123
E-mail: Michael.Cook@cox.net

Secretary Trish Seinwill

9335 Branchside Lane
Fairfax, VA, 22031
E-mail: pseinwill@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor Max Moore

201 Basswood Court
Bellevue, NE 68005-2001
E-mail: MaxMoore55@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, Pete Glenboski, Kevin Todd, Don Kelly, Paul Jeanes, Val Dugie, Jeff Herd, Colonel Mohan Krishna.
Active Duty: MSgt Jeannette Johnson.

Appointed Historian:

William (Bill) Sargent
2711 Northwood Circle
Papillion, NE, 68133
William488@cox.net

Appointed Enlisted Affairs Liaison:

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

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TREASURER’S REPORT

As of 30 May 2014, the treasury had an account balance (rounded) of \$48,000.

Most of the money in the account comes from dues paid in advance. Therefore, we must keep money in reserve for each year to which it applies.



Some members have paid as far ahead as 2020, 2021, 2022, and even 2026! Now that is optimism, folks.

It is never too soon to renew.

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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Remember that our **Association** is a **non-profit IRS 501(C)19 veterans, federal tax exempt organization.** As such, you may **donate** additional funds to the treasury, or in the memory of a comrade taking that final flight. Those **donations (NOT DUES)** are tax deductible under an IRS ruling for the organization. Every amount, large or small, is very much appreciated. It happens.

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Mike:

Just a note to say I was impressed with the job you do with our finances, it’s obvious that you do much more than count your beans the day before the membership meeting!

It’s a thankless job, like most on a Board, but you have my “THANKS MUCH!!”.

Terry Harpster, Ewing, NE
(From an e-mail 15 April 2014)

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There were 541 members in good standing as of 30 May 2014, compared with 623 on 31 December 2013.

Effective 1 April 2014, 61 members whose dues expired on the latter date above, and failed to renew, were deleted from the members-in-good-standing roll. Unfortunately, TAPS also takes a toll.

However, through ‘friendly reminders’ and such, several have returned to the fold in recent weeks, including lapsed members from years past, and a few new sign-ups.

Retaining members, and recruiting new ones, is a recurring and never ending priority.

About 150 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**.

Occasionally, this effort has a payoff, as you will read later in this newsletter.

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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. Make a note.

You can now go to the Members Only section of the Association web site and see a listing of members and their dues expiration year.

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

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 following 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 31 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.

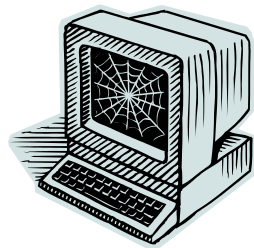
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YOUR 55TH WING ASSOCIATION WEB SITE www.55wa.org

The **Association** Website 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 **BX** section is where members can find how to purchase the **Association** polo shirts, ties and other items. 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.

New articles are added to the **Memory Lane** section as they are submitted. Be sure to check it out periodically for the recent tales. Contribute **your own** to share with others.

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

Check the web site regularly for updated NOTAMS and the latest information on the next reunion, Birthday Ball, and other significant events.

There are posted photos from the last reunion.

An added feature is in the **Members Only** page, where any member can check on his/her **DUES EXPIRATION DATE**.

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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.

Question arises: "How will I know when a new issue is published?" Historically, about six months from the last one.

Newsletters are usually published about four months before a reunion, a couple of months after a reunion, and about six months from that one.

Based on that 'schedule', you just have to make periodic look-ins at the web site to find out. 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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55th WING KINGS SCORE STARS



Promotions to brigadier general announced 10 January 2014 by HQ USAF include: **Guillot, Gregory M., Commander, 55th Wing;** and **Rauch,**

John T., Jr. Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Plans and Requirements Headquarters, United States Air Force. Pentagon (**55th Wing** Commander: 28 June 2012 - 19 June 2013)

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TALES OF THE 55TH

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55th WING HERITAGE WEEK

7-12 April 2014, Heritage Week coincided with the **Association's** reunion, and was highlighted by such functions as the base-wide tour, aircraft displays and wing briefings; the Hall of Fame induction ceremony; the *Tales of the 55th*, and ending with the main event, the annual **55th Wing Birthday Ball**.

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HALL OF FAME

The induction ceremony was held on Thursday, 10 April 2014. Reunion attendees had the opportunity to witness the recognition of a superior former member of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*,

LtCol (Retired) Ricky J. McMahon.



McMahon was assigned to the **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW)** and the **55th Wing**. In each assignment, and at increasing levels of responsibility, he made numerous significant contributions to the warfighting capabilities, mission successes and accomplishments of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

The most significant contribution, lasting to this day, of this outstanding officer was bringing to fruition the 338th Combat Training Squadron (CTS), from an idea to a reality. He was the founder and first commander of the 338th CTS. His relentless and dedicated pursuit of an essential element of the **55th Wing** spanning years earned him the title of "*Godfather of 55th Wing Training.*"

The fifteenth edition was held on Friday, 11 April 2014, **Association** President Jim Thomas as honcho and emcee.

The event had a distinctly different atmosphere this year due to a more hands-on interest of the **55th Wing** senior staff; and since it was held in Dock 1 of the **55th** massive maintenance facility on the Offutt flight line. An audience of several hundred active duty troops, reunion attendees, retirees, and guests made up the largest crowd ever for the *Tales*.



Reunion attendees had the chance to mingle with today's warriors of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*, and to hear featured speakers from different eras of the **Wing**.

Thomas made opening and welcoming remarks, then introduced **55th Wing** Commander, Col (BrigGen-sel) Guillot to the podium for his statements.

There were two ceremonial bell soundings to officially open the *Tales* this year: Col Guillot and three former wing commanders, BGen **Don Bacon**, BGen (Ret) **Reg Urschler**, and BGen (Ret) **Larry Mitchell**, did the initial honors. Then **Lisa Curtis** and **Grant Hoover**, the late **Robb Hoover's** offspring, were invited to ring the bell in Robb's honor as founder of the *Tales* event.



Thomas opened the program recounting an unusual mission of the 55th Fighter Group 70 years ago in WWII, wherein P-38 fighters were used on a bombing sortie over a German occupied French air field. **Colonel Jack Jenkins**, the 55th Group Commander, was shot down and captured by the Germans during the raid.



Mark Pestana then presented a 20 minute film he produced entitled "*Silent Warriors*". It was an outstanding montage of the RC-135U COMBAT SENT aircraft airborne, refueling, and being intercepted by an increasingly sophisticated generation of Soviet

fighters.

Major Chris Shannon, 238th Combat Training Squadron, told of an RC crew's close encounter with North Korean fighters in March 2003.



The *Tales* closed with a salute from the more senior generations of the 55th to the younger generations of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifty* to continue the important legacy of the best wing in the US Air Force. *Hoo-rah!!*

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ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTES TO THE BALL

Association President Jim Thomas, presents the



55th Wing Birthday Ball chairman **Capt John Lavin**, of the 55th Medical Group, with a check for \$1000 on 25 March 2014. This sixteenth annual donation by the

Association goes to help defray the cost for 'tickets' to the Ball for younger airmen in the **Wing**.

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55th WING BIRTHDAY BALL

The 55th Wing held its 36th annual Birthday Ball, Saturday, 12 April, 2014 at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in LaVista. This year, the gala event was the grand finale' for the reunion.

It was hosted by Colonel (BrigGen-sel) Greg Gulliot, 55th Wing Commander, and his wife, **Caroline**.



The Ball celebrated 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.

Dave Webber, a local TV personality, was again the master of ceremonies. Dave served four years in the AF and was a member of the SAC Elite Guard in the early 1960s. He did his usual masterful job with his trademark wit and professional touch.

The guest speaker was former 55th Wing Commander (March 2011-June 2012) BrigGen **Donald Bacon**. His current position is Director of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Strategy, Plans, Doctrine and Force Management, HQ USAF, Pentagon. (*Whew!*)



His talk was a well received, open, candid, free-wheeling recounting of the heritage and history of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*. He also recognized a few members of the audience who represented various periods of the **Wing**.

The program was highlighted by the presentation of Hall of Fame inductee, and the 2013 **55th Wing Association** Award for Excellence announcement and presentation.

This year's planning committee was 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.**

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AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

MSgt Justin J. Rust, Production Superintendent, **55th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**, is the winner of the 2013 **55th Wing Association** Award for Excellence.



55th Wing Association Awards Chairman Ham Kennedy, MSgt Rust, MSgt Jeannette Johnson, Association Board of Directors active duty representative.

This superior performer is responsible for sortie generation of the **55th fleet** of RC-135 aircraft in all operations: local sorties, preplanned deployments, as well as frequent quick reaction deployments; balanced personnel usage and training in-unit at home and at four forward deployed locations.

An outstanding professional, **MSgt Rust** was previously recognized as the top Senior NCO of the **55th Wing**.

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55TH OPERATIONS GROUP NOW LED BY COLONEL KRISHNA

At a change of command ceremony on 27 May 2014, Colonel Mohan Krishna took the reins of the **55th Operations Group**. In this photo, he accepts the guidon from **55th Wing** Commander Colonel (BGen-sel) Greg Guillot (left).



This is Mo's third tour with the **55th**, which began as an RC EWO crewdog in 1997, and he eventually commanded the **343rd Reconnaissance Sqd**, and was Deputy Commander of the **55th Mission Support Group**. He also served a year in the desert.

He is an elected member of the **Association's** Board of Directors. Mo previously served as an active duty representative on the Board from Sep 2009-Sep 2012. He has been an ardent supporter of the **Association** for many years, and we are glad to welcome him back once again.

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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 this 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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*(The following FYI article is edited from an e-mail by **Jack Kovacs**, 13 March 2014, Fairborn, OH)*

Placement of the bricks has generally been a random thing, with no special consideration for anyone's rank or status.

During initial construction of the memorial, Larry La Flair and I spent quite a bit of time on site,

and especially making sure that all the (500+ at that time) original bricks were accounted for in two large stacks.

There were some requests, from those who purchased two or more bricks, to place them together, if possible. Other than requiring Larry and I to sort through the stacks of bricks, we saw no reason not to accommodate the requests. Other than keeping those bricks together, no attempt was made to place those, nor any other bricks, in any particular spot. We left it up to the brick layer.

The only guidance we gave him was to try and leave blank bricks: 1) adjacent to the front of each bench, 2) around the SAC emblem, 3) in a triangular area in back of the monument to minimize people stepping on engraved bricks as they read a brick close to the monument, and 4) around the base of the monument.

The reasoning for the "no" bricks around the SAC emblem and base of the monument was to prevent drawing special attention to any specific brick(s).

No engraved bricks are to be placed in the border around the patio until every other brick in the patio proper is engraved. Any new engraved bricks will be placed touching an in-place engraved brick, and in a location that will keep a balanced appearance.

If anyone examines the bricks, you will see generals, colonels, and others are placed randomly in the patio; and if one steps back to the sidewalk and observe the patio, not one brick, or pair, or more, stands out over any other brick or bricks.

An exception: one **Medal of Honor** recipient whose name is in gold paint on a standard sized brick. *(I could not tell you where that brick is located without some research because it just doesn't stand out.)*

(Ed. Note: It is at the center of the front face of the monument base. Appropriate for a MoH recipient, most would agree.)

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If you loan someone money and never see them again, it was probably worth it.

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TAPS

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ALLEN, Velma, 85, 24 April 2013, Baton Rouge, LA; widow of **William L.** Velma was a long time employee of Wendy's Restaurants.

CULVER, Marion F., 97, 17 May 2014, Topeka, KS; widow, **Marie.** Marion joined the Army Air Corp in 1942 and was a bombardier/navigator who flew 36 combat missions in WWII. He was in the **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW)** at Forbes AFB, KS, as an instructor nav in RB-47s from the mid-1950s until his retirement in 1963. He later worked for the Kansas Dept of Economic Development until 1985.

CURZON, Daniel, J., 80, 28 January 2014, Broken Arrow, OK; wife, **Linda.** Danny was a **55th RB-47** co-pilot at Forbes in the early 1960s. He then had a tour as an aircraft commander RC-135s at Yokota AB, Japan, and Kadena AB, Okinawa. After a staff tour in Vietnam, he worked in SAC HQ at Offutt AFB, NE. He returned to the **55th** as Director of Training until he retired in 1978.

DUNCAN, Clyde E., 84, 3 February 2014, Colorado Springs, CO. Clyde was a long time navigator in RB-47s at Forbes in the 1960s.

(Only info available.)

ENGLAND, Kathleen, 69, 5 December 2013, Omaha, NE; wife of **David**, an RC-135 EWO and staff officer in the **55th** at Offutt circa 1970s. A teacher and nurse, Kathy retired in 2001; she was active in her church and a volunteer for many cultural and charitable organizations.

GAUNT, John J, Jr., 76, 25 February 2014, Grass Valley, CA: wife of 50 years, **Lynn.** A member of the first graduating class of the USAF Academy, John was an RC navigator in the original cast of the 82nd SRS at Yokota AB, Japan, then Kadena AB, Okinawa. He served a tour in Vietnam, then in the SAC Recon Center at Offutt before his assignment to Beale AFB, CA, where he retired.

LANE, Thomas (Loose), 64, 1 January 2014, Greenville, TX. He was an RC-135S navigator at Eielson AFB, AK, in the late 1970s before assignment to the **55th SRW** at Offutt in 1980. He

was inducted into the Wing Hall of Fame in 2005. *(See following story.)*

LEYDORF, Michael C., 67, 25 December 2013, Beaverton, MI; wife of 46 years, **Rosemary.** A pilot in the 2ACCS and 1ACCS of the **55th** at Offutt in the 1970s, he eventually commanded the latter squadron. Mike later served as Deputy Commander for Operations in the 6th SW at Eielson from which he retired.

RAMAGE, Richard H., 70, 10 April 2014, Papillion, NE wife, **Catherine.** For many years a member of the 2ACCS Battle Staff in the **55th** at Offutt, Rich eventually became chief of that staff.

RUST, Erma, 90, 20 May 2014, Topeka, KS; widow of **Howard (Rusty)** who passed in October 2007. Rusty was a **55th** pilot in RB-47s at Forbes from 1956 thru 1969.

SELBIE, F. Donald, Jr., 93, 12 February 2013, Green Valley, AZ; wife, **Jane.** A graduate of Princeton University in 1942, Donald was commissioned and served in the Army Air Corps in WWII as a bomber navigator in B-29s. He flew combat missions from India and from Tinian Island in the South Pacific. He was an EWO in RB-29s and RB-50s with the **55th SRW** at Forbes circa 1950s. Don retired in 1968.

SUGGS, John (Jack) W., 87, 3 April 2014, Keizer, OR; wife, **Jan.** A pilot with 38th SRS at Offutt flying the Looking Glass ABNCP 1968-71, he also served as squadron operations officer. He later was Deputy DO in the 376th Strategic Wing at Kadena, 1972-74. He retired from an assignment with 15th AF at March AFB, CA, in 1980.

TOBIAS, RICHARD L. (Toby), 78, 8 March 2014, Bellevue, NE; wife, **Lois.** Toby flew KC-135 missions during the Vietnam Tet offensive. He also had a tour at Kadena with the 82nd SRS. Toby served in the **55th** at Offutt as an RC-135 pilot and later on staff. He retired in 1978 and flew with the Army Corp of Engineers.

TRIBULA, Carole, 76, 3 March 2014, Ballwin, MO. She was the wife of **Eddie**, a long time EWO in the **55th SRW** in RB-47s at Forbes and in the initial cadre of RC-135 crews at Offutt in the 1960s. He also was on staff at the 6th SW at Eielson.

WALLER, Benjamin E., 81, 30 April 2014, San Antonio, TX. A 1957 West Point graduate, he was a pilot in the 40th Bomb Wing at Schilling AFB, KS, and then flew KC-97s in the 90th SRW

and **55th SRW** at Forbes AFB, 1959-62. He had a SEA tour and taught at the AF Academy. Ben retired in 1984.

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Thomas H. (Loose) Lane, Major, USAF Retired, was born in Roswell, GA, graduated from Georgia Southern University and entered the US Air Force.

Asked how he acquired the nickname, Lane related that when he played football, he would often tell his teammates, "Get me the ball and I'll get loose!"



After completion of navigator training, his first operational assignment in strategic reconnaissance was with the 6th SW at Eielson.

Loose also had a tour in Vietnam as a weapons controller in F-4D/Es.

He was assigned to the **55th SRW** at Offutt in 1980 and rapidly became an instructor, evaluator and navigator training expert in the RC-135 systems. His expertise and leadership were essential in the foundation of the first dedicated combat crew training unit in the **55th**.

During his five years in the **Wing**, he became the leading authority on the ASN-121/LN-20 navigational system.

His experience led to continued support to the **55th** missions while assigned to the Reconnaissance Directorate of HQ Strategic Air Command, and later at the Logistics Detachment at Greenville, TX. While there, he was the active duty liaison with the civilian contractor responsible for the LN-20 update modifications.

Upon his retirement from the AF in 1992, he remained at Greenville, employed by that contractor. Lane continued to make significant contributions to the RC-135 fleet with advancement for flight deck and technology and designs as he maintained his flight status.

His many accomplishments were recognized with his induction in to the **55th Wing** Hall of Fame in 2005; and he was the first inductee on the Wall of Honor inaugurated by the 645th Aeronautical Systems Squadron at Greenville. Both honors are

worthy of Loose who made significant and lasting contributions to the primary mission of RC-135 acquisition and operations programs.

He will be missed by his immediate family, the **55th** family, and the numerous friends he made during a full lifetime.

(Edited form his Hall of Fame info and obituary)

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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 are relatively thin.*

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TAPS ISSUE/WEB SITE HISTORY

When the web site was the established by **Don Griffin** in 1996, the TAPS section was added. Research through archived past newsletters provided Grif with the initial list of names. Many of those just had a year of demise or no date at all. Those listed usually were ones passing since the previous newsletter, or some other input. Some names were found thorough other sources, as well.

Any names listed before 1996 are listed because of limited research, or that someone specifically requested a name be added. Trying to research and list every former **55th'er** who has passed would be a monumental, if not overbearing, task.

Anyone who wishes to have the name of a family member, friend, or comrade who was a former member of the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth** added to the listing can request the web-guy to do so. Please have the date of demise (at least the year) for placement.

MAIL 'N STUFF



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At the internment ceremony for **Colonel (Ret) John McKone** on the very chilly morning of 9 January 2014, at Arlington National Cemetery, to support the McKone family, the **55th Wing** was well represented with 18 individuals attending to meet and greet the family.

Headed by Ricky McMahon, **55th Wing Association** VP, all from the immediate DC area, attending were: **Lou Eisenberg**, Lt Col Mohan Krishna, **Col Bruce Danskine**, **Col Dan Moy**, **Maj Jeremy Smith**, Trish and Jeff Seinwill, **Craig Allen**, **Rick Rankin**, **David Heininger**, **Steve Visco**, **Craig Porterfield**, **Mike Meermans**, **Bo Marlin**, **John Ruid**, **Dennis Gillon**, and **Col Bill Tart**. (*Eisenburg was the sole representative from the 'Forbes old guard 55th', while all the others are from a generation of RC-135 crewdogs.*)

McMahon related: "I brought some **55th Wing Association** pins and provided them to the attendees, which demonstrated to the immediate McKone family that John's **55th** extended family was there to support them. I talked with **Judy** and **Lori**, two the four daughters, and provided Judy a few pins to distribute to the family members; she had noticed and asked about the lapel pins. I think the grandkids were going to be the recipients."



The ceremony was with full military honors: horse drawn caisson, rifle team, honor guard/pallbearers, bugler, bagpipes and the band.

Graveside ceremony took about 15 minutes to set up (load the casket on the caisson, walk to the gravesite, unload the casket), and about the same amount of time for the Chaplin to perform the ceremony -- scripture, eulogy, poem, 21 gun salute, flag folding / presentation, and TAPS.



This photo was taken after the ceremony. Those pictured are: Front Row, L-R: Trish Seinwill, McMahon, Allen, Rankin, Heininger, and Visco. Back Row, L-R: Krishna, Danskine, Moy, Jeff Seinwill, and Jeremy Smith. *Photographer: Craig Porterfield.*

"We were all gratified to participate in this event and show our **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth** pride to the McKone family."

Ricky McMahon, Nokesville, VA

(*Edited from an e-mail 9 January 2014*)

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Hi Max,

Just finished reading the (*December 2013*) newsletter.

Thinking about the **55th** sure does bring back some great memories.

Not sure about attending the reunion in April; that month is very busy for us. Candy and I send our very best for the New Year.

Dick Keen, Big Timber, MT

(*From an e-mail 11 January 2014*)

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Received from **George Penfield** on his 're-memories' of **Bill Rosser** (TAPS, November 2013) and others. A good look at some early **55th** history.

As best I remember, Bill came into the **55th** at Ramey AFB, PR. That was 1950 or 1951. I was an A/C on an RB-50 there. I not only had my own crew, but also had my own RB-50 aircraft. Back then, you were responsible for monitoring the maintenance, cleaning, etc., of 'your' plane.

When **Ray Britton** came to Ramey, the staff assigned two crews per aircraft. Ray was put on my aircraft and we shared it. That's when I got to know Bill Rosser. He was on Ray's crew then and stayed on it through the RB-50 and into the RB-47. So I knew Bill quiet well. On the cycle of operating locations (OL) rotation, Ray's crew would usually be one month ahead of my crew.

In 1953 the three crews in Japan were **Bob Marshall's**, Ray Britton's and mine to start out. **Stan O'Kelley's** crew came in to replace Marshall's crew. Rosser was on Ray's crew at that time. He initiated me to downtown life in Fusa (*outside Yokota AB*). We were all quite close as we all lived in the same BOQ and spent a lot of our evenings at the O'Club together.

During that time O'Kelley's RB-50 and crew were shot down (*by Soviet fighters on 29 July 1953*). We all felt a terrible loss. O'Kelley was a good friend of mine. Ray and Bill probably took it harder, since the radar operator on O'Kelley's crew became sick and Ray (Detachment Commander) had his radar operator fly with O'Kelley.

I was at Clark AB, PI, flying a mission into Vietnam. Although I was shocked, I wasn't there to go through the initial agonies of the loss. When I got back, I could tell that Ray and Bill, as well as the rest of their crew, had been under a terrible strain, more so, since their radar operator was on O'Kelley's flight.

Another time, Britton's crew was at RAF Lakenheath, UK, at the same time as mine. Bill introduced me to golf. I hadn't played before. After about six times Bill said that he couldn't play with me anymore because I wasn't getting any better and I was making him worse. Unfortunately, he was right.

Tom Dawes was Britton's nav during the time that Rosser was on Britton's crew. I called Tom to inform him of Bill's death. I was saddened to hear of his death, as I'm sure that his many friends from the **55th** were also.

There aren't many of us "old" (*make that 'senior'*) **55th'ers** left.

George Penfield, Shreveport, LA.

(*Edited from e-mail 4 December 2013*)

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Max,

I'm often reminded that when we take leadership positions, that there are few who will criticize. The alternative is, we stay at home and shut the shades.

You all (*the Association Board of Directors*) are doing a great job, and we appreciate those who take leadership positions and make a difference.

I am grateful to you and the **55th Wing Association** for the difference you make at the **Wing**. As the commander, I always knew I had wonderful friends and wingmen in all of you.

Donald "Bits" Bacon, Fairfax, VA.

(*BrigGeneral, Former 55th Wing Commander, March 2011-June 2012*)

(*From an e-mail 12 March 2014*)

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Max,

I want you to know everyone really appreciates your hard work editing the **Association** newsletter.

It is always very interesting and I love your humor, making it fun to read.

Also, looking forward to your (*and others'*) war stories at the reunion. All of us need to write our stories down, for sure.

Gerald Walker, Georgetown, TX.

(*From an e-mail 26 March 2014*)

(*It is unfortunate that Gerald had to cancel his trip to the reunion.*)

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Brother Max,

Everyone who knows you, Bill Ernst and Robb Hoover, has the highest regard for your honesty and integrity. I know that I certainly do.

A selective group of you have volunteered your time, talent and energy in keeping alive the history and sacrifices of the men and women who made the **55th** such a great outfit.

Thanks for staying on the high ground and telling it like it is.

Best and Warmest Regards,

Alex Garrison, Bartlett, TN

(*From an e-mail 28 March 2014*)

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Max,

I wish you and the **55th Wing Association** the VERY BEST.

We miss the **55th** very much. It was the greatest opportunity we had in our 36 years in the Air Force.

The **55th Wing Association** always made us feel we were at HOME!!

All the best, Max. Your friend,

Craig Koziol, Rockwall, TX

(A former **55th Wing CC**, Oct 03-Sep 05)

(From an e-mail 29 March 2014)

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Max,

(Regarding the recent reunion) I certainly enjoyed the tour of Offutt and the festivities on Friday (11 April). Please pass on my thanks to everyone who I know worked very hard to make it a success.

Regards,

David Sheffey, Farragut, TN

(From an e-mail 13 April 2014)

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Max:

I said I wouldn't join (*the Association*) until it had PayPal, but I see the good things you guys do.

Loved the **Tales of the 55th**, as well as all the gang at the Birthday Ball, and couldn't resist anymore. Glad to be part of it.

Ross "Bull" Bullock, Papillion, NE

LtCol, Deputy **55th** Ops Group Commander

(From an e-mail 24 April 2014)

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Hi, Jim (Thomas),

My thanks to you and the **55th Wing Association** Board of Directors for the consideration and selection (*Life Membership*), which I consider an honor and a privilege.

My connection to the **55th** goes back to March 1957 when I was a young bomb/nav technician, two-striper who actually deployed with and worked on 53-4299 RB-47H, the aircraft now on static display (*at the center of*) the Cold War annex of the National USAF Museum.

Thanks again,

Larry La Flair, Fairborn, OH.

(From an e-mail 24 April 2014)

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Max,

I think the Omaha reunion was one of the best in recent history---congrats to Don Kelly who deserves special recognition for stepping out smartly with the activities, and for getting such a great rate at the Embassy Suites.

We are fortunate to have so many (*Offutt*) local retired **55th** folks who are both willing and able to stay wired directly to the current active **Wing** administration. It is obvious that we remain an integral part of the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth**.

George Ross, Clayton, NC

(From an e-mail, 7 May 2014)

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Max,

Attached you will find an article on the February delivery of the EC-130H Baseline 2 to the Electronic Combat Group (ECG) Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.

I saw your call to diversify the newsletter, and I think this will be a great way to bring in the **55th** ECG at D-M, and catch (*your members*) up with what we do as part of the **55th Wing**.

I will PCS out of here in a few months, but I will see if anyone else is interested in sending a D-M update for future newsletters.

Thanks for keeping us informed.

Videmus Omnia,

Phil Acquaro, Lt Col, USAF

Commander, 42nd Electronic Combat Sqd.

Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ

(From an e-mail 18 April 2014)

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(Ed notes: Indeed LtCol Acquaro is correct, and it is likely many **Association** members do not know that the **55th** ECG at D-M is one of six groups under the **55th Wing** at Offutt, and has been since February 2003.

He submitted the following article for this issue of the **VO**. It was co-authored by **Major Christopher Cochran** and **Capt Courtney Barnett**. The article was published in the D-M "Desert Lightning News" base paper and on-line, 21 February 2014 edition. It has been edited here for spacing and readability.)

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55TH ECG RECEIVES NEXT GENERATION AIRCRAFT

On 20 February 2014, the 55th Electronic Combat Group (ECG) of the **55th Wing**, received delivery of its first Baseline-2 modified EC-130H COMPASS CALL aircraft. This modification marks a significant milestone in the unit's 31 year history, and expands the Department of Defense (DoD) electronic warfare capability.



Since the first combat mission in 1989, as part of Operation JUST CAUSE, to present day missions in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM over Afghanistan, COMPASS CALL has provided the premier counter-communications electronic attack capability. Continuously deployed since 2002, the **55th ECG** recently eclipsed 10,400 combat sorties and 64,200 flight hours as the crews provided US and Coalition forces, and Joint Commanders, a flexible advantage across the spectrum of conflict.

COMPASS CALL's adaptability is attributed to the acquisition strategy of the Big Safari Program, and Air Force Material Command's 661st Aeronautical Systems Squadron based in Waco, TX. The combined efforts of those agencies ensure the EC-130H can counter new, emergent communication technology.

Colonel Marty Reynolds, Commander of the **55th ECG**, stated, "One significant advantage of our program is that through our upgrade process, Baseline-2 provides cutting-edge technologies and the ability to be innovative as we support operations in the air, land, maritime, space and cyberspace domains."

Col Reynolds also explained that the Baseline-2 provides the DoD with the equivalent of a "fifth

generation electronic attack capability." A majority of the improvements in the Baseline-2 are modifications to the mission systems that enhance precision and increase attack capacity. Aircraft communication capabilities are improved with expansion of satellite connectivity compatible with diverse DoD assets.

Furthermore, modifications to the airframe in Baseline-2 provide improved aircraft performance and survivability.

The combined modifications enhance the EC-130H COMPASS CALL's multi-role capabilities as an electronic attack platform. With the EC-130H Baseline-2, the men and women of the **55th ECG** are equipped and ready to meet future challenges.

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MEMORIAL DAY IN THE UK



TSgt Brett Rutter, 95th RS, RAF Mildenhall, prepares to lay a wreath at the Wall of Honor at Madingly American Cemetery, Cambridge, UK, on 26 May 2014. The wreath was placed in recognition of the WWII **55th Fighter Group** members who are buried there.

LtCol Vincent Zaleski, 95th RS commander, was present at the Memorial Day ceremony representing the present day **55th Wing**.

This was a joint coordinated project of the **55th Wing Association** and the **55th Wing**.

(Photo by **AnnIC Preston Webb**, 100th Public Affairs.)

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*Good judgment comes from experience.
Experience often comes from bad judgment.*

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HULA HOOP PROJECT 1973

Article and pictures contributed by *David Sheffey*, Farragut, TN

My Hula Hoop tour to Hickam AFB, HI, was 1973. The joint project was an annual one for the Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA) to monitor French nuclear tests at Mura Mura atoll in the south Pacific during the early 1970s.

The aircraft we flew belonged to the Systems Command out of Kirtland AFB, NM, an NC-135, #369. The Kirtland flight crew came to Offutt to get checked out in air refueling, but for whatever reason, politics or lack of skill, none qualified. Therefore, we (*SAC/55th SRW*) took over their aircraft and mission. Same story as in 1972.



During the 1973 deployment each sortie was comprised of two cells of five aircraft each – one recon mission aircraft with **four** support tankers. The cells launched thirty minutes apart and refueled enroute. The last tanker off-loaded 10,000 pounds of fuel. Hardly worth the effort, that is, unless we needed it.

The aircraft had so much parasite drag, the performance data was no good. The best the old bird would climb was 300 feet per minute with everything going for it – water injection and all. Had to turn inside Aloha Tower; don't want to disturb the tourists, you know.

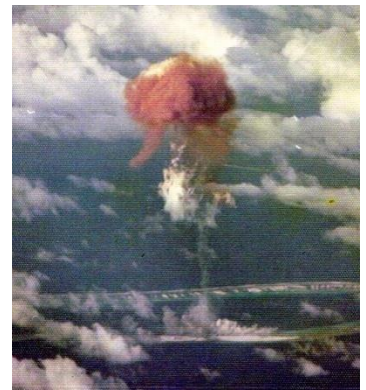
The NC-135 was such a poor performer during air refueling, I frequently had to push the throttles to the stops. I would be at MRT and I watched the boom director lights click from yellow, red, then disconnect. Couldn't do a thing about it. Tried to toboggan but we lost all the gain climbing again to altitude. I was not smart enough at the time to ask for an increased airspeed, say 300 KIAS instead of

285 KIAS. I think the additional speed would have helped.

More regarding aircraft 369: it was a queer bird in more ways than the inverted canoe on top and a MAC checklist. It was equipped with four generators and electric flaps. Also, the aircraft controls were excessively heavy. We referred to it as steering like a Mack truck.

It was wired with a switch to transfer control of the autopilot to some geek in the rear of the aircraft who had a joy stick, whereby he would attempt to arc around the nuclear event with assistance from a side looking camera.

During the first nuclear shot of the tour, I transferred autopilot control to the aft operator. As we arced around the event, we were about to pass through the ugly red radioactive cloud. I asked if the aft operator really wanted to fly through the damned thing. Absolutely not!! I then took control of the aircraft and subsequently maneuvered around the cloud. There were no other requests for transfer of autopilot control during subsequent shots.



One detonation was about 15 kiloton – approximate Hiroshima size. The shot was about 20 miles away from our orbit. One device was dropped from an aircraft. The Systems PHDs in the back wanted a 60 degree bank turn. Recall the aircraft is limited to a 45 degree steep turn. We were flying about 2,000 feet above optimum altitude. I refused to deliver a 60 degree bank but agreed to try a 45 degree. The aircraft soon stalled, dropping over 1000 feet. All quiet after that.

As soon the shot went off, I removed the curtains and viewed the event. It was interesting to experience the shock wave pass through the aircraft. I could pick it up off the right wing tip and then notice the fluctuations of the pitot-static instruments before it passed off the left wing.

There were seven nuclear events that year at Mura Mura atoll. My crew was there for six of them. The seventh got away. Others crews claimed it was not fair. No sharing of the wealth.



Crew E-10 during operation Hula Hoop 1973.
 L-R: AC Capt David Sheffey, CP-1 Capt Bill Steadman, CP-2 Capt Robert Tebbs, N-1 Major Ken Gaisior, and N-2 Capt John Chisholm.

Having a Master of Science degree in Nuclear Physics did endear me to the Los Alamos gang and the Systems team on the aircraft.

After leaving active duty, I worked as a Licensing Manager for the Ft Calhoun nuclear plant in Nebraska before moving to be a nuclear engineer overseeing nuclear safety at the various nuclear facilities managed by Department of Energy at Oak Ridge, TN.

Two years ago I retired from the Y-12 plant in Oak Ridge. While working at Oak Ridge, I flew KC-135s with the Tennessee Air National Guard out of McGhee Tyson Air Base in Knoxville until December 1993. I was activated during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

(Edited by Max Moore from a series of Sheffey's e-mails, March and April 2014.)

(A more extensive version of this tale is in the Memory Lane section of the Association web site.)

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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.

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When 55th 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. Use 'em. 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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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.

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.

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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

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55th WING HALL of FAME HISTORY

The Hall of Fame process has been an evolving one that actually had its beginning in the fall of 1998 with a “heritage project” initiated by **Colonel Bob Atkins**, the 55th Support Group Commander at that time. The concept was to select a number of “heroes and legends” from the Wing’s storied past to be honored in a lithograph and an accompanying bio book. A panel headed by the then-Wing Vice Commander, **Colonel Greg Smith**, began a thorough and arduous selection process over a several month period in 1998. 55th SRW Association Board of Directors members Col (Ret) Bill Ernst, LtCol (Ret) Robb Hoover, LtCol **Bo Marlin**, 45RS commander, and TSgt **Craig Kibbe**, 55th Wing Historian, were among the several members of that committee.

There were established, definitive criteria and a conscientious effort to choose **a solid cross-section fully representative of the Wing’s heritage and missions.**

The daunting challenge of reviewing many worthy nominees culminated in the naming of 19 “heroes/legends” typifying the long and storied history of, varied missions of, and the thousands of outstanding people who have served in the 55th over the decades, from WWII, through the Cold War era, Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and into the 1990’s.

Many of those are well known to 55th alumni--- **Harry Tull, Bruce Olmstead and John McKone, Burt Barrett, “Iron Mike” Rafferty, George Miller, Reg Urschler, Larry Mitchell**, et al. Three were WWII 55th Fighter Group members: **Ed Giller, Jack Jenkins, and Walter Konantz**. Others were of more recent eras. The final nineteen selectees were presented at the 55th Wing Birthday Ball in January 1999.

Two more inductees, LtGens **Tom Keck**, a former 55th SRW commander, and **Phil Ford**, then Vice CINC of Strategic Command, were named by **BGen Ron Sams**, the 55th Wing Commander at that time, and presented at the Ball in January 2000.

In 2001 **BGen Greg Power**, the next 55th Wing Commander, decided to establish a defined criteria for nominees, named a selection panel, and add two more inductees.

Nominees were to be historical figures who impacted the development of the 55th Wing (including all previous 55th organizations—the 55th Pursuit Group, 55th Fighter Group and the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing.) While personal achievement was important, the nominees had to stand as role models; therefore, primary consideration was to be given to the nominee’s leadership, vision and impact on the Wing. They could not be on active duty.

The selection committee was chaired by the Wing Vice Commander, and members named to the panel were the Wing’s Command Chief Master Sergeant, the president of the Offutt Advisory Council, and 55th SRW Association President Bill Ernst. A member of the Wing command staff acted as recorder.

Under that process, **Colonel William (Bill) Riggs**, who served longer than any 55th SRW commander, before or since (1966-70), during the Wing’s move from Forbes to Offutt, and oversaw the transition from RB-47s to RC-135s, was nominated for induction by Max Moore. The late Col Riggs was inducted at the 2001 Birthday Ball.

A second inductee for 2001 was **Mr. (Retired CMSgt) Jerald Kozlek**, nominated by LtCol Kermit Neal, commander of the 95RS at RAF Mildenhall, UK. Mr. Kozlek was recognized for his contributions as a civilian service employee at RAF Mildenhall, NSA Souda Bay, Crete, and Riyadh, Saudia Arabia, during the Gulf War.

The next year, the committee selected the four members of the 55th SRW RB-47 crew who perished when a Soviet MiG shot down their aircraft over the Barents Sea on 1 July 1960: **Aircraft commander Major Willard Palm**, and **EWOs Capt Eugene Posa, Dean Phillips and Capt Oscar Goforth**, who were a composite nomination made by Moore on behalf of the 55th Wing Association.

The other inductee for 2002 was **LtCol (Ret) James Taylor**, a Cold War 55th SRW RC-135 EWO and instructor, nominated by LtCol Dean Longo, 55th Wing Assistant Director of Staff.

The reason for this review article, and there is one, is that since its inception, the 55th Wing Hall of Fame has generated much discussion, sometimes passionate debate, and some would say, controversy, among Association members as to

how our organization should respond and participate in the future of the Hall of Fame process.

That situation was resolved in 2002 when, at the behest of the **55th Wing**, the **55th SRW Association** was asked to **administer** the nomination and selection process. The criteria and process was revised, modified and refined from the program established by the **Wing** by a committee headed by the **Association** Awards chairman.

Since that time, nominations are solicited from the active duty personnel and the **Association** membership. Those go to a screening committee, which culls the nominations using specific criteria, and forwards the most eligible to the selection committee. Both committees are appointed by the **Association** president and include an active duty representative from the **Wing**.

Once the selections are made (normally, limited to two), the names are put to the **Association's** Board of Directors for concurrence. Once that is established, the **Association** president then informs the **55th Wing** commander of the results. The **Wing** then sets up the induction ceremony, and the inductees are presented at the **Wing's** annual Birthday Ball.

The 2003 inductees, who first came through that process, were **LtCol (Ret) Hobart (Matt) Mattison**, a **55th SRW** RB-47 aircraft commander who recovered a severely damaged recon aircraft that had been shot up by North Korean fighters over the Sea of Okhotsk; and **LtCol (Ret) Roy (Pop) Kaden**, an early Cold War **55th SRW** RB-50 crew commander and strategic reconnaissance pioneer.



Wall in a hallway near the Command Section of the 55th Wing HQ building dedicated in January 2003.

The 2004 selection was a composite induction of 16 RB-50 crewmen, commanded by **Capt Stanley O'Kelley**, who were shot down by Soviet MiGs off the eastern Siberian coast on 29 July 1950, and became the first **55th SRW** Cold War casualties. The submission was made by Robb Hoover for the **Association**.

Another Cold War **55th** pioneer, **LtCol (Ret) Warren (Pappy) Cole**, was inducted in 2005; along with **Major (Ret) Thomas (Loose) Lane**, a veteran RC-135 nav/instructor and equipment upgrade expert.

Col (Ret) Merlin F. (Steve) Stevens, a former **55th SRW** commander, inspirational leader and role model, was inducted in 2006.

The inductees for 2007 were **Col (Ret) John Drost** and the late **Major (Ret) Mitch Phillips**. Drost was cited for his dedication as RB-47 aircrew commander, who was often specifically selected to lead and execute classified, higher headquarters directed projects and missions. Major Phillips was a primary leader, in active duty assignments and as a contractor, in the evolution of the RC-135 from being a strategic reconnaissance platform to becoming a critical tactical asset in the USAF combat capability.

LtCol (Ret) Jeffery Needham, RC-135 pilot/squadron commander, recognized for his superior leadership and management during his career in the **Wing**; and **CMSGT (Ret) Lawrence Cobb** for his outstanding contributions as a **55th** maintenance/aircrew member and contractor on RC-135 systems, were inducted in 2008

In 2009 **Col (Ret) William E. (Bill) Ernst**, an RC pilot, squadron commander and HQ SAC Recon Center director, was cited for his outstanding leadership and contributions through numerous service and military organizations.

Special recognition was made by then-**Wing** Commander **BGen James Jones of The 55th Spouse - Past, Present, Future** - for their enduring sacrifices for and support of the **Wing**, their serving active duty members, and their



families over the many decades of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's* existence.

LtCol (Ret) Howard L. (Lynn) Duncan, a noted COBRA BALL and Big Safari Program expert throughout his active duty career and as a contractor, was the 2010 inductee.

The inductees for 2011 were: Col (Ret) Michael L. Cook, LtCol (Ret) Robb J. Hoover, and LtCol (Ret) Max R. Moore. All three were honored for their sustained dedicated service to the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* throughout their active duty careers and continued well into the years after retirement.

The 2012 inductee was **Col (Ret) Joseph W. Siniscalchi**, recognized as an RC-135 pilot/sqd commander, outstanding leader and manager.

There was no inductee for 2013.

LtCol (Ret) Ricky J. McMahan, was the 2014 inductee noted for his dedication to securing combat crew training for the **55th Wing**; being the founder of, and first commander of, the 338th Combat Crew Training Squadron.



Lodge photo of Hall of Fame members at the 2012 induction ceremony. L-R: Hank Dubuy, Mitchell, Duncan, Ernst, Hoover, Siniscalchi, Cook, Needham, Stevens, Moore.

* * * * *

(Article originally written for the Association, and published in the newsletter of January 2001, and again in February 2004. By Max R. Moore)

(A complete list of the Hall of Fame inductees can be found on the 55th Wing Association web site.)

* * * * *

FLAGS FLOWN OVER THE AIR FORCE MEMORIAL ARE AVAIABLE

The Air Force Memorial staff has 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 choose a **specific significant date** on which you would like the flag flown over the Memorial.

You can also request that a flag you already own to be flown for free.

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.



* * * * *

ASSOCIATION BX

* * * * *

ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

These are 'must have' items for 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.

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 is \$35 each.**

Be sure to state which size you want in your order.

* * * * *

The golf/baseball caps are royal blue with the dual shield logo on the front, and an adjustable back strap. **They go for \$12 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: \$5.45 for one cap; \$10.45 for one shirt; \$11.35 for both a shirt and cap order; \$11.35 for two shirts.

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!

The brain child of Sam Pizzo, this item is another ‘must have’ for **Association** reunion banquets and other appropriate events.

* * * * *

Sales of all the items were brisk at the recent reunion hospitality suite.



LATE NEWS FLASH: Anyone desiring to purchase any of the advertised items should now contact **Jim Thomas** at JThomas927@aol.com; 402-291-292-4260, or 4418 Anchor Mill, Bellevue, NE, 68123-1168. He is now the ‘temporary haberdasher’ until a volunteer steps forward for the duty. One does **not** have to be a member of the Board of Directors, **nor** live in the Omaha/Offutt area to serve. Just let Jim know and the rest will be coordinated. It isn’t a time-consuming job.

Checks for the full amount of your order should be made to the 55th Wing Association, and Jim will mail your orders promptly.

* * * * *

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, 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.**

Frank is an **Association** member and ardent supporter. He is also a **55th Wing** Commander’s Wingman, and recently was inducted into the Sarpy County (NE) Business Hall of Fame.

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REUNIONS

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2014 B-47 STRATOJET REUNION FT WALTON BEACH, FL 30 OCTOBER-2 NOVEMBER 2014

To be held at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort. Reservations should be made no later than 30 September. They can be made thru the Association's web site at www.b-47.com. Group code is **stratojet**. Special rates depend on view/location of each room.

Reunion registration package is \$177 per person. More details on agenda, events, tours, etc., can be found on the Stratojet Association's web site, or by contacting either **Dick Curran**, dickcurran@hotmail.com, ph: 865-940-1020; or The Reunion BRAT, 360-663-2521, thereunionbrat@hotmail.com.

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55th WING ASSOCIATION TO BE DETERMINED FALL 2015

We are working it.

* * * * *

WHO SHOT WHAT

Pictures not previously attributed: Thomas for FAC shot; Jim Maloney for the reunion logo. Ball logo, Bacon at Ball, and Ops Gp change pix by **Josh Plueger**, 55th Wing Public Affairs (PA). McKone ceremony by McMahon. *Tales*, Award and Hall by Moore; bricks by Kovacs; and all others by Moore.

Association shirt/cap by Utley; tie by Pizzo; 55th pin by Moore; 'Mad Max' at desk graphic by **Patricia (copper) Gros**, friend of the Association.

Reunion album had pictures contributed by **Peg Maloney**, **Patty Smith**, **Terry Harpster**, **Carol** and Max Moore.

Graphics and organization logos from various sources and web sites.

* * * * *

REUNION ATTENDEES LIST *THEY WERE THERE AND YOU WEREN'T.*

ANDERSEN, TOM
BARRETT, DOUG and LYNNE
BARRETT, DON
BARTELS, BRYAN
BRADBURY, CHUCK and JULIE
BROOKIE, JIM and MARILYN
BROWN, DICK and TERRI
BRUNNER, AL and SUZANNE
BURMEISTER, CHUCK and JULIE
CALDWELL, JIM and NANCY
CANADA, CHRIS
CENSULLO, FOX and TERESA
CIZ, GEORGE AND DIANE
COLLING, HOWARD and JAN
COOK, MICHAEL and TINA
CURZON, HANNA
DANSKINE, Col BRUCE
DANIEL, Col TODD and MICHELLE
DENNY, BOB
DUBUY, HANK and SANDRA
DUER, GLEN and ANN
DUGIE, VAL and LAURA
DUNCAN, LYNN
EBEJAY, CRAIG and CAROLE
EDDINS, DOUG and daughter MARILYN
ELDRIDGE, GOLDA and NANCY
ELSASSER, BOB



Hutchinson, Simon, Ruane, McBride, Thompson

ENGLAND, DAVE
 ERNST, BILL and LINDA
 ERTESCHIK, DAVE and MARY
 COMFORT
 EVERETT, BILL and EILEEN
 FEDERATION, JOE
 FELDKAMP, AL and SANDY
 FRUCTNIGHT, JIM and HELENA,
 and sons KEVIN and SCOTT
 GARRITY, TOM and FRANCINE
 GIAMBRI, PHIL and MARGARETA
 HARPSTER, TERRY and PHYLLIS
 HARRIMAN, DICK and EVIE
 HARVEY, CLAY and BARB
 HAUN, DENNY
 HEININGER, DAVE
 HERBERT, TSgt NATASHA
 HERD, JEFF
 HINKLE, CLARK
 HOLSINGER, RICH
 HOOVER, SHIRLEY
 HOWE, MARY
 HUTCHINSON, DICK
 and daughter CINDY
 JEANES, PAUL and ANNETTE
 JOHNSON, JOHN and TONI
 JOHNSON, MSgt JEANNETTE and
 TSgt NICHOLAS
 JOHNSTON, TSgt ERIC
 JOLLY, DON and PAT
 KAMBACK, AL
 KELLY, DON and MELINDA
 KENNEDY, HAM and PAT
 KNECHT, RON
 LAMBERT, CLIFF and KAY
 LILLER, CHARLES and SARA

LOVE, VIRGIL and KITZI
 MALONEY, JIM and PEG
 MARLIN, BO and ANN
 MCBRIDE, CHARLES and LEXY
 MCFARLAND, MIKE and PEARL
 MCMAHON, RICKY and CARY
 and daughter KEYSER, CAITLIN
 MITCHELL, LARRY and SUSAN
 MOORE, ELLEN
 MOORE, MAX and CAROL
 MORROW, JIM and CAROLE
 MURPHY, TERRY and KATHY
 NOLAN, JERRY
 OLIVO, JOHN and CHRIS
 PALMIERI, ELVIO and DARLENE
 PELOQUIN, Col PERRY
 PESTANA, MARK and KAREN
 POTTER, PETE and TREVA
 and KENNEDY, HAL and MARY
 RASMUSSEN, CHIP and SHARON
 REMAKULUS, DON and KATHI
 RIEDEN, HANK and JOANN
 ROSS, GEORGE, and BETTY
 RUANE, JIM and BARBARA
 SAENZ, ROLAND and KATHY
 SAVAGE, WALTER and ANN
 SAVAGE, WALTER, JR.
 SCHAPKER, FRED
 SCHRECKER, WALT and MARY
 SCHULTZ, SAM
 SCHWARTZ, CMSgt BARRY and JULIE
 SCOTT, DICK and JANE
 SEINWILL, JEFF and TRISH
 SHANLEY, JOE and JOANNE
 SHEFFEY, DAVID
 SHIERS, BUCKY



Remakulus, Marlin, Bradbury, Hinkle

SIDELKO, SID and PHYLLIS
 SIEVERS, STAN and SHIRLEY
 SIMON, BILL
 SINISCALCHI, JOE and KIM
 SMART, RUDY
 SMITH, ALLAN and MARTY
 SMITH, GARY and PATTY
 SMITH, MARK and SUANNE
 SMITH, RICK and JOY
 SPADARO, MARK
 ST. AMANT, TONY and LYNNE
 STOOP, KEN and MYRTLE,
 TABLER, MICHAEL and SUE
 TAYLOR, JIM and MARION
 and daughter JULIE
 TAYLOR, JAMES and SUSAN
 THIDODEAUX, WES and ANNA
 THOMAS, JIM and SHARON
 THOMPSON, RICK and JACQUE
 URSCHLER, REG and JO HEDGE
 UTLEY, LARRY
 VISCO, STEVE and MARIE
 WHITWORTH, NEIL and DEE
 WOLFE, LARRY and SUSAN
 WORTH, BRIAN and BRENDA
 and daughters MADELINE, EMILY

**OTHER MEMBERS and GUESTS
 WHO ATTENDED THE BALL**

AHSAM, RALPH
 BACON, BGen DON and ANGELA
 BATEMAN, STEPHEN and BETH
 BAUER, KEN and guest
 BURGOYNE, JON and daughter KATY
 CASEY, RICH and INDIA
 COOPER, Col JOHN and SHARRY
 HANSEN, JOHN
 JOST, RICHARD
 KRIST, BOB and four guests
 KUMOR, FRANK and PATRICIA
 MARTIN, STU and KRIS
 MCCOY, JIM and KATHY
 MINER, CARL
 MITCHELL, RONNIE
 PAUL, MIKE and NANCY
 PARENTE, MIKE and DOTTIE
 PETERSON, DAN and KATIE
 and CZARNECKI, GEORGE and LINDA
 PURDUM, DICK and LORRAINE

SCACCA, MIKE and MARY
 SCOTT, RANDOLPH and guest
 SHERMAN, DORENE
 SPIVEY, JOE
 STEWART, REGGIE and Ms BEE
 STIVERSON, MIKE and ROBLYN
 SOVBODA, PETE and JEANA
 SWINGLE, VICKI
 TRESMER, JOHN and RUTH



REUNION PHOTO ALBUM



*Pat Kennedy, Shirley Hoover, Mary Howe
 get 'em checked in at registration.*



*This crowd is just **too** happy.
 Among others: Steve Visco, Al and Sandy
 Feldkamp, Mark Spadaro, James Taylor. Is that a
 Moose (Danskine) on the loose lurking in the back?*



L-R: Laura Dugie, Lynn Duncan, Jeff and Trish Seinwill, Val Dugie, all know when a camera is aimed at them.



Bar scene at the Joslyn. Must be a 55th crowd.



Myrtle and Ken Stoops, Jim and Marilyn Brookie.



L-R: Barb and Jim Ruane, Jacque and Rick Thompson, the Dugies at their 'special table'.



Joslyn Castle, famous Omaha landmark, site of the Thursday evening dinner.



Counterclockwise from left: Sandy (again), Golda and Nancy Eldridge, George and Diane Ciz, Al Feldkamp, Patty and Gary Smith.



Another bar scene. Is there a pattern here?



*We are having fun now!!
.....well, aren't we?*



*Get on the bus. Get off the bus.
Touring Offutt.*



*Now, folks, this here is an air 'chine,
and y'all helped pay for it.*



Let's see what's in this building.



*L-R: Al and Marty Smith, Rudy Smart, Jerry Nolan,
Don Jolly, Kathy Murphy, Pat Jolly, Terry Murphy.*



*L-R: Bill Simon, Carol Moore, Joy and Rick Smith
Dick Hutchinson and daughter Cindy.
Back: Long time, loyal club employee, Shirley.*



*L-R: TSgt Nicolas Johnson, MSgt Jeanette Johnson,
TSgt Eric Johnston, TSgt Natasha Hebert, Julie and
CMSgt Barry Schwartz.*



*L-R: Tony and Lynne St. Amant, Ham Kennedy,
Walt Schrecker, Ellen Moore, Mary Schrecker*



The Thompsons and Charlie McBride.



***Sisterhood of the Shirt - A Reunion Tradition**
L-R: Mesdames McFarland, Maloney, Pestana,
Lambert, Sievers, Olivo, and Ross.*



*Gary Smith directs traffic from the Offutt control
tower. Yes, that is Sandy on the left.*



Linda and Bill Ernst and "Jimmy Jet" Morrow.



*Some of the elegant Ball crowd.
L-R: Rudy Smart, Diane and George Ciz, Patty Smith, Larry Mitchell, Al and Sandy (who else?) Feldkamp, Gary the Smith, Nancy Eldridge, Terry Murphy, Golda Eldridge.*



*Ladies Court:
L-R: Ellen Moore, Joy Smith, Carol Moore, Ann Marlin, Patty Smith. Credit cards, anyone?*



L-R: Treva and Pete Potter, Bill Simon, Mary and Hal Kennedy, Walt and Ann Savage.



L-R: Jim Maloney, Stan and Shirley Sievers, Dan and Katie Peterson.



*Enjoying a farewell Sunday brunch:
L-R: Fox Censullo, Joe and Kim Siniscalchi. Teresa Censullo standing. Lynne, Don and Doug Barrett and Moores in the background.*

* * * * *

Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely with an attractive and well preserved body. But rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, body wasted, shouting: "Holy crap, what a ride!!!"



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 Oct extended to 31 Dec 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

