

# Videmus Omnia

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

### ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Most of our **Association** comes from the ranks of *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* aviators; however, none of us flew (or are flying?) faster than 2018! We're more than halfway through the year; and looking ahead, it appears we're just getting ready to cross the hold-line.

As stated often, history does matter—especially for the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** where we strive to “Honor those who served and serve those who do.”

Memorial Day is always a busy weekend for your **Association**. In his years-long tradition, **Jim (Strike) Thomas** led several members in the annual Saturday morning sprucing-up of the Offutt AFB cemetery, which was cleaned of debris, stains and bird droppings.

The base's Memorial Day ceremony was spearheaded by the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's* Wing Commander, **Colonel Michael (Gravy) Manion**.

Also on Memorial Day, the **Association** was honored to present (and received a public “shout out” for doing so) the USAF wreath at the Omaha National Veterans Cemetery's first such ceremony, attended by 1000+ active duty, veterans, families and friends.

It was my privilege to represent the **Association** and the Air Force with the presentation. I imagine, in future years, an **Association** member will present jointly with an active duty airman.



From the jump seat, this former crewdog sees a variety of upcoming heritage activities **Association** members will experience in our remaining 2018 takeoff roll. Many of these are described further in this newsletter--another excellent “Max Moore” publication. Other events will be covered in a later edition.

The first thing to notice, you actually received a **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** newsletter just four months after the last edition. Due to the recent overwhelming volume of reports, news, activities, etc., Max felt (more importantly, could support) an additional edition was warranted. Kudos to him for strapping on the additional task of three newsletters, vice two, next year. So, the takeoff continues...

In this edition, you'll read about **Association** and **Wing** participation in the 14 July flyover/internment for **Lt William Shank** (WWII service, 338<sup>th</sup>) attended by our Vice President, “**RJ**” **McMahon**, and active duty and Guard personnel.

The **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** and Nebraska Air National Guard (NE ANG) continue to intertwine RC-135 fleet assets, operational capabilities, manpower and more. On 4 August the NE ANG flew a *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* TC-135 over historic Ft. Atkinson, NE, in a heritage celebration at Lewis and Clark's 1804 “*Corps of Discovery*” council site.

A week after that flyover, local **Association** members had a display alongside **55th** squadrons, and the RAF, at Offutt's 2018 “*Defenders of Freedom Air and Space Show*”, 11-12 August. The air show closed in on a special 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Lt. Jarvis Offutt's** WWI death, with a ceremony that included Offutt family members. **Association** members **Ken Bauer** and **Mike (Coach) Hoskins** made that a reality.



L-R: Moore, Hoskins, Bauer, Spivey.  
(Photo from Moore)

In early September many in the **Association** will support and sponsor events at the 2018 BIG SAFARI reunion, and we look forward to their post-event reports.

The **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Hall of Fame and the **Association's** Award for Excellence committee deliberations are in full throttle, **Ham Kennedy** at the helm, in anticipation of related **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth** Heritage Week activities in September, highlighted by the **Wing's** annual Birthday Ball.

During Heritage Week, we plan to participate with the 45<sup>th</sup> RS in relocating and rededicating the famed AMBER HALL plaque, which for years, had misspellings, yet honored a crew which included **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth** members.

This effort would never have been accomplished without the direct cooperation between your **Association**, the BIG SAFARI Association, RIVET AMBER crew families, the 45<sup>th</sup> RS and other active-duty personnel.

Finally, we've started negotiations for a host hotel to solidify the promise of a **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth** reunion in April 2019. We hope to announce details soon so you can plan accordingly.



**Check the Association web site and e-mail networking for updates.**

Surely, “The Sun Never sets on the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth**”, and in the above synopsis, you can see the activities continue to fly by as we roll down the remainder of the 2018 “runway”.

I hope you can join us in as many functions as possible. My personal thanks to **Association** members who turned these plans into actual (and meaningful!) events.

Wishing you all a marvelous end to summer and hope to see you soon.

*Videmus Omnia, Spy V*



## 55<sup>TH</sup> WING ASSOCIATION INFORMAL MEETING OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHERS

BELLEVUE, NE  
FRIDAY 4 MAY 2018

President Joe Spivey convened the meeting at 0800. BoD members present were: **Treasurer Michael Cook, Webmaster Jim Maloney, Newsletter Editor Max Moore, Past President Jim Thomas; Association members Kurt Kramer and Jeff Johnson.**

Tapped in via telecom conference call were: Vice President Ricky McMahan, **Secretary Trish Seinwill**, BoD members **Paul Jeanes, Errol Hoberman** and **George Ross**. (Note: With the telecom participants, there was a virtual quorum of ten BoD members, although **no actual business** was concluded.)

Pres. Spivey, after a short introduction, presented a slide briefing of topics to be discussed in a wide range of managing expectations, purposes/goals, future projects and time lines, among other things. (Copies of the slides which detailed the meeting agenda were sent to all BoD members).

The president then offered the telecom participants to engage. McMahan mentioned he would be in Offutt area 21-24 May, and there may be another meeting then. (Note: McMahan's trip was delayed until June.)

Of lead importance was the setting of dates and getting a venue for the Offutt area reunion in spring 2019.

The possibility of putting a **55<sup>th</sup>** memorial at the Omaha National Veterans Cemetery if/when that entity decides on the type and size of memorials it will allow.

Also mentioned was to a potential project to add to the Cold War Memorial at the National Museum of the US Air Force in order to honor the post-Cold War era history of the **55<sup>th</sup>**. Initial feedback from **Jack Kovacs** and **Perry Peloquin**, who have visited with the Museum and Dodds Monuments on the suggestion, was that it would have to be a stand-alone in the same area.

Treasurer Cook stressed that both projects would have to be funded by separate donation drives.

Spivey also said the **Association** should consider offering the Hall of Fame Spouse Plaque replicas to members. Method and cost TBD.

Maloney said he was taking a course on web site design and management with an aim to update and improve on the **Association**'s homepage.

Moore proposed that after the next newsletter cycle (Aug/Sept and January) we produced three newsletters per year. It would make the articles more timely and the members would get more for their dues. Cook said we could afford that.

Moore stated he would continue editing the newsletter as long as he was physically and mentally able, but the day will come when someone will have to take over. His biggest concern was that the issues would become stale; so new ideas and focus would be welcome.

Cook also suggested the next time the **Association** hosts a new **Wing** CC, that the Vice and Group CCs be invited as well. This would give the **Association** broader exposure to the command level. Attendees' consensus was in agreement.

Moore suggested the **Association** donate an amount (\$500-\$1000) to the SAC Museum toward the restoration of the EC-135. That project is in dire need of funds. Moore said he would defer to Treasurer Cook on the amount. This would require Board action.

Also stressed was the need for the **Association** to retain and recruit members. It is a never ending

effort. Both Cook and Moore agreed that sending the April newsletter to dues delinquents as of 1 April had gained positive results in returnees. (*Note: Of 70 whose dues expired, 25 did renew their memberships as of this report.*)

**Both Cook and Thomas stressed that 97.5% of our members must be US armed service veterans to meet the IRS requirement for tax exempt status.**

These notes are **not** minutes meant to be all inclusive of every discussion, but hit the main points that were covered for potential action by the BoD and/or the **Association** membership. The slides presented by Pres Spivey have more details.

In summary: The meeting was very useful for substantive discussion, good participation by all. The meeting adjourned at 0905.

*MAX R. MOORE*, Recorder

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## **ANOTHER 55<sup>TH</sup> ASSOCIATION GATHERING**

A second gathering was hosted by President Spivey at his corporate conference room on 14 June 2018. The occasion marked the presence of out of town members of the Board of Directors to meet with other directors and local members of the **Association**. Although there was actually a quorum of BoD (ten of the 16 elected), this was an open house social affair and no business was conducted.

The social began at 1600 with Pres Spivey welcoming those attending with a few remarks on **Association** endeavors and presented the 'rules of engagement'. People greeted one another and the interaction was convivial. Snacks and beverages were offered.

Dugie and McMahan were at Offutt on business, and Krishna recently returned to the area upon his retirement from active duty. It was noted that this was more BoD members in one place than at some past reunions.

Among the others attending were: Mike Hoskins, Ken Bauer, **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Plans; **Judy Barton**, **John Cooper** and his son, **Sean**. The younger Cooper had recently graduated from the US Naval Academy and was commissioned a



lieutenant in the US Marine Corps by **President Donald Trump** at the ceremony.



*L-R: BoD members: Moore, Kennedy, Spivey, Dugie, Past President Bill Ernst, Maloney, Cook, Past President Jim Thomas, Krishna, McMahon. (Photo provided by Moore.)*

Also showing face were **Scotty Dowell**, 55<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Sqd, Operations Manager; **Lt Colonel Matt (Corky) Burns**, NE ANG, 55<sup>th</sup> Intel Support Sqd; **Bill Sargent**, **Scott Haddick**, **Dan Rocha**, Kurt Kramer, **Ben Ungerman** (a member of Congressman **Don Bacon**'s staff), **Lt Col Mark (Chili) Howard**, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Chief of Staff; **Rick McBride**, **Royal Air Force Squadron Leader Adrian Pickup**.

Sqd Ldr Pickup earlier had made **Association** history by becoming the first, and so far only, member of the RAF to join our merry band.

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## HALL OF FAME CEREMONY AND TALES OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup> (19<sup>th</sup> EDITION)

As has become tradition over the years, both events will be held on **Friday, 21 September 2018**, the day before the annual Birthday Ball as part of **55<sup>th</sup> Heritage Week**.

President Joe Spivey (Hall) and Jim Thomas (Tales) will emcee and orchestrate the proceedings. Both programs are in the final planning stages, but will be fleshed out in the coming weeks.

The Tales tentative topics are: North Korean MiG surprise; Amber Hall Memorial story; and the Palm Memorial Trophy winners and tale.

The two events are 'must do' for out of towners in for the Ball.

The venue will be Dock 1 of the General Bennie L. Davis Maintenance Facility, an informal setting, but accommodates the large crowd of active duty troops, retirees, family, guests and friends.

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## AIR FORCE BALL 22 SEPTEMBER 2018



*Logo by Josh Plueger, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs.*

The Birthday Ball is scheduled for **Saturday, 22 September** at the **Century Link Center** in Omaha, to be hosted by **Colonel Sherri LeVan**, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Vice Commander, and her husband, **LtCol (Retired) Douglas**, a former commander of the 343<sup>rd</sup> RS.

The Offutt Top Three Association (Senior NCOs) again has the responsibility for planning the event, under the lineage direction of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander and 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Command Chief.

**Although the name is the Air Force Ball, this arrangement does insure, and with positive assurance, a major 55<sup>th</sup> presence and specific elements in the script to Wing heritage, etc. The 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Hall of Fame inductees and the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association Award for Excellence presentations will be on the program.**

Affable **Dave Webber**, Omaha TV personality, will be the MC for the ninth consecutive year. He served four years in the SAC HQ Elite Guard back in the day.

Guest speaker scheduled is **CMSgt Mark Hurst**. He currently is the Command Chief of the 552<sup>nd</sup> Air Control Wing (E-3, Sentry AWACS),

Tinker AFB, OK; and is a member of the Air Force Tactical Air Control Party.

In 2004, during his **fifth** combat tour to the Iraq and Afghanistan region, his team was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade in Afghanistan, leaving him with severe shrapnel wounds to the face and body, resulting in the loss of his left eye.



After recovery, he requested a waiver and worked to remain qualified to serve in combat zones. He was successful and again served multiple times in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, the Chief has earned the Army Ranger tab and is a qualified combat parachutist.

After dinner and the main program the Heartland of America Band will provide entertainment and dance music.

**Ticket prices** for the Ball are \$40 for DVs/retirees/civilians. Pending donations and fund raising efforts are to keep the cost as low as possible. There are graduated costs for active duty lower ranks.

The **Association** donates \$1000 annually.



*L-R: Trea Cook, MSgt Courtney Bailey, Ball committee secretary, MSgt Paul Erickson, Ball co-chair and Top Three Association representative; BoD member Mo Krishna, at check presentation 15 August 2018.*

**Hilton Omaha Hotel**, west across from the Century Link Center (soon to be the CHI Health

Center), has blocked 100 rooms for the night of 22 September at the discount rate of \$99, plus taxes; the reservation code is OBB18 (*stands for Offutt Birthday Ball 2018*) Reservation phone direct is 402-998-3400.

**Captain Keith Saylor**s, USSTRATCOM Elite Guard, Ops Officer, **55<sup>th</sup>** Security Forces Sqd, and **MSgt Paul Erickson**, **55<sup>th</sup>** Contracting Sqd, are co-chairs for Offutt's largest formal social function of the year.

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*Please note that 55th Wing Protocol office personnel periodically reviews and culls its invitation lists to reduce mailing costs, and to delete repeat offenders who do not RVSP, even with regrets, and there are many.*

**Thus, if you have received invitations to the Ball, and/or other Wing events in the past, it may not have occurred in the recent months/years, nor in the future.**

*The word will always be spread by networking, and anyone can sign up to go to the Ball, or other events, via 'executive action' as has been done in recent years **whether you get a formal invitation or not.***

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In today's climate of funding crunches, the world needs to know the following fact (*it isn't new info, and has always been so*): **The 55th Wing Birthday Balls past, and this year's gala, pay for themselves.**

**NO taxpayer dollars finance these events. They are paid for with 'ticket' sales, fundraising, sponsors, and donors.**

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTORY

**Association Business/Policy/Issues:**

**President Joe Spivey**

25014 Farnam Circle

Waterloo, NE, 68069

E-mail: [jespivey@thecseteam.com](mailto:jespivey@thecseteam.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

**Webmaster Jim Maloney**

7908 Kona Circle  
Papillion, NE 68046-5619

E-mail: jim@maloney.com

**Awards Chairman**

**Hamilton Kennedy**

13701 S. 129<sup>th</sup> St  
Springfield, NE 68059

hamiltonwilsonkennedy@gmail.com

**Other Members of the Board of Directors:**

**Bill Ernst, Jim Thomas, Errol Hoberman, Fox Censullo, George Ross, Don Kelly, Paul Jeanes, Val Dugie, Mohan Krishna. Active Duty: Colonel David Preisman.**

**Appointed Historian:**

**William (Bill) Sargent**

2711 Northwood Circle  
Papillion, NE, 68133

William488@cox.net

**Appointed Enlisted Affairs Liaison:**

**Elvio Palmieri**

4020 W. Palm Aire Drive, Apt. 409  
Pompano Beach, FL. 33069

ElvioPalmeri@yahoo.com

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**BOARD MEMBERS RETIRE  
FROM 'REAL' JOBS**

**Colonel Mohan Krishna** retired from active service after 26 years. His last position was Director, Air Force Complaints Resolution, Air Force IG, HQ USAF in Washington, DC. His ceremony was held 22 May at the Pentagon with BGen (Ret) Congressman **Don Bacon** officiating



Among the other officials and 55<sup>th</sup> alumni attending were: **LtGen Stayce Harris, AF/IG; MajGen John Rauch** and wife **Diane, Dave and Laurie Heininger, Ben and Katina Ungerman, Sean Pennington, Colonel Carl Mizner, Bob McMillan, Major Kevin Sword, Major John Casey, Major Alexa Quandt** and **Association Vice President Ricky McMahon.**

Mo, his wife **Susanne** and family, returned to the Offutt area where he served in various capacities during tours with the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing in 1997-2003 and 2005-2012.

*(Contributed text and photo by Ricky Mac.)*

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**Association Secretary Trish Seinwill** had her last day as a senior program analyst supporting BIG SAFARI Program and HAF/A2 in the Pentagon on 29 June.

She had previously retired from the Air Force 31 December 2012. Her assignments in the 55<sup>th</sup> included as an EWO in RC-135s and COMBAT SENT (1995-99), and as head of 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Protocol (2003-05).

Her farewell luncheon was held at the Highline RxR in Crystal City, VA. She and Jeff continue to reside in Fairfax, VA.





*Pictured are: L-R: Jeff Seinwill, Colonel Jim Price, Herself, MSgt Jim Henning. Also present were: Major Alexa Quandt, Joe Federation, and Major John Casey. (Contributed text and photo from Trish.)*



## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 1 August 2018, the treasury had an account balance (rounded) of \$57, 500.

A significant portion of the money in the account comes from dues paid in advance. Therefore, we must keep money in reserve for each calendar year to which the dues apply. For example, dues paid for years thru 2020 are prorated and spent through the ensuing years.



One optimistic gent is paid through 2034!

Although the **Association** is solvent, we have expenses, obligations, and bills to pay, such as this newsletter and the postage. We do have a budget.

**It is never too soon to renew your membership. So, please pay your dues promptly, or early and often.**



Please remember that the **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 or loved one who has taken their final celestial journey.

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, and thank you very much.



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There were **465 members** in good standing as of **15 August 2018**, compared with **432** on **31 March 2018**.

The uptick was partly due to the April newsletter being sent to the lapsed members as a good faith gesture to encourage them to return to the fold, and about 30% did. New sign-ups helped, as well.



147 widows receive the newsletter gratis. As always, they are welcome to any and all **Association** functions.

Fifty **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**, and associated units and offices are sent the newsletter for PR purposes, and to keep them connected with the **Association**, and vice versa.

Occasionally, this effort has a payoff of exposure for the **Association** and new active duty members to the organization, now at 18, plus one member of the RAF.



## WHEN DO MY DUES EXPIRE?

That is the most asked question of the membership chairman. **That date is on the address label: 20XX. Please make a note of this year-date (31 December 20XX) to keep up with your dues.**

If you are not sure of, or have a question about, your dues expiration date, to inquire on same, please e-mail to **treasurer@55wa.org**; 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 following year to remain in good standing.**



Life Members (LM) and widows are dues exempt.

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**ALWAYS USE THE ASSOCIATION'S ADDRESS ON THE MEMBERSHIP FORM WHEN SENDING DUES OR NEW CONTACT INFO. THANK YOU.**

**55 Wing Association, Inc.,  
PO Box 13165  
Offutt AFB, NE 68113**

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**Please help us stay current.**

There is a membership/information update form at the end of this newsletter, as well as on the Association web site.

Please use that form any time you pay dues, even if there are no changes to your basic info; 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.

It is imperative to update your latest contact information, especially if you have relocated, changed your e-address, etc., within the past six months.

This is particularly important as a new Association Directory will be updated and plans are to mail it with the next issue of *Videmus Omnia*.

If you own more than one home, please give us the address you want any Association correspondence mailed to, and to go into our data base.

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE SENT TO YOUR HOME OF RECORD IN THE ASSOCIATION DATA BASE.**

If sent first-class to a former address, we get returned mail if it cannot be forwarded. Third-class mail is not forwarded, nor returned to us.

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*Borrow money from pessimists.  
They do not expect to be repaid.*

## **RECRUITING MEMBERS TO THE ASSOCIATION**

**Retaining members, and recruiting new ones, is a recurring and never ending priority. It is the life blood of any organization.**

When anyone recruits new members, those potentials may ask questions or have concerns.

Here are some tips to point out to those who are apprehensive about joining:

1) **No meetings** except at reunions. Alleviates concerns of time and commitments.

2) The **Association** has **no HHQ to answer to**: no quotas, no required reports up channel, etc.

3) We have **no problem filling** officer slots, Board, or committees. Usually new members think they may be tapped for those sorts of things as happens in other organizations.

4) Belonging is a major way to **stay connected** with former and current **Wing** members; know about events the **Association** is doing; and news of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* and Offutt.

Feel free to retain this for future reference, as needed. Add your own tips, as well.

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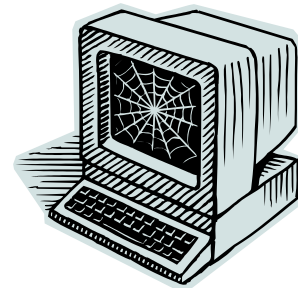
The **Association** welcomes not only *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* 'alumni', but associates, supporters and friends thereof. There are many members who did not serve in the 55<sup>th</sup>, but were connected to the unit and/or its history in some way.

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## **ASSOCIATION "NEW" UPGRADED WEB SITE 55wa.org**

If you visited the **Association** web site in June or July, you will have noticed the complete web site revision in June.

Though probably not necessary, if you're NOT seeing the gallery of 'recce' aircraft at the top of the home page, you need to 'clear your browser cache' (*you can Google the instructions for the browser you use*), and 'refresh' to see the new site.





There are several reasons the change was necessary, but suffice it to say the web site is now significantly modernized, using much less space, which negates additional costs, and will greatly facilitate some future improvements, such as an e-commerce capability, now available. (BX section. Pg 25)

You might notice on the URL bar at the top of the page that the site now has an upgraded security status – **https://** rather than the old **http://**

You also will see that rather than scrolling through long lists, such as the membership dues list, or the TAPS, you can now simply ‘search’ for the name you’re looking for.

You can look at the **55<sup>th</sup>** Cold War Memorial page in the Heritage section and find the location of your ‘brick’, or purchase another one.

Take some time to find your way around the new site, I think you’ll like it. I’m always open to getting positive suggestions and recommendations to improve navigation or access.

*Jim Maloney*, the Web Guy.  
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The **Association** web site remains an integral and important part of the **Association’s** communications. It is where one can keep informed between newsletters, and where news and information are timely reported and updated.

All of the same features are there, it just takes adjusting to the navigation.

NOTAMS are recent items of information; the **BX** section is where to find how to purchase **Association** items; **Memory Lane** is under Heritage. Please contribute **your own true story** for others to share.

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

**Check the web site regularly for the latest information on the next reunion, Heritage Week activities, and other significant events.**

Any member who wishes to read and/or download **Association** newsletters from the web site can do so. That allows members to read the latest issue as soon as it is published, as well as read it wherever in the world one might be at any time.

Newsletters are **usually** published about four months **before** a reunion, a couple of months **after** a reunion, and about four 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 need to visit the **Members Only** page on the web site, and read, or download the **most recent** newsletter from there. Simply request password from the web-guy and you’re all set.

**For Members Only, there is no user ID box now, just one for the password, which is the same as the old one but without the 55 on the end.**

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

Past newsletters dating to January 2000 are archived and can be accessed on the home page. It is interesting to see how the issues have evolved over time. Lots of history there, as well.

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**A link is in the Members Only page, where any member can check on his/her DUES EXPIRATION DATE. This area is updated periodically and may not reflect recent renewals.**

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## **A PERSPECTIVE FROM OUR ASSOCIATION ACTIVE DUTY BOARD MEMBER**

Heartfelt and warm greetings to the men and women of the **55th Wing Association!!**

This is my first perspective for the newsletter, so I trust you will forgive any random acronym and military jargon slips.

I have been a member of the **Association** for nearly 24 months as of the publication of this newsletter, and in that time I have learned more about the **Association** than I had in my previous 20 years of active duty in the 343d Reconnaissance Sqd, **55th** Operations Group, and as an



active duty member of the Nebraska Air National Guard.

I would characterize my membership in and with the **Association** as nothing short of enlightening and rewarding. That time has validated the stated mission of the **Association** to “honor those who served and serve those who do”.

It truly is hard to overstate the personal and professional development I have experienced in this time and it can all be tied together. I had the great fortune (with so much help along the way) of being selected to command the 170th Group (NE ANG) and be promoted to O-6 since I have joined your ranks.

I have had the privilege of grading awards packages alongside Ham Kennedy and Joe Spivey. Jim Thomas recruited me into this organization and has helped me deal with and understand the nature and complexity of commanding an operations group such as the one we have in the *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth*.

Paul Jeanes, Val Dugie, **Dutch Vandenberg**, Ricky Mac, Trish Seinwill, and Mo Krishna keep me positive and grounded every chance they get, because in my 22 year career, I’ve had the privilege of working for all of them in some capacity...and they remember!

Then there is Max. Max is the one we all sit around the campfire with and wait for him to tell stories from...well...before today, and we are all better for having heard them.

Who you (we) are, as an **Association**, is just what I describe above: a living history that is designed to use the success of the past to make the future of the **55th Wing** brighter.

I have been in command for seven months and from my seat, I can most assuredly tell you that the future is bright. We did recently have to say farewell to two extraordinary leaders in **Colonel Dave “Monster” Berg** (WG/CV) and **Colonel Joe Santucci** (OpsGp/CC) as they headed off into a very well-earned retirement. This assignment was Monster’s first direct involvement with the **55th Wing** while Colonel Santucci spent time here in the late ‘90s. Despite not having deep connections with the **55th**, those two most assuredly ended their tenures here as highly respected recce warriors with whom I would be proud to fly for anytime.

Their replacements are something amazing to behold, as well. The new **Wing** vice commander, Colonel Sherri LeVan, is an experienced **Wing** alum, command pilot, and former **55th** Operations Support Sqd. commander (and she happens to be married to Doug, a retired former commander of the 343d!).

The new **55th** Ops Group commander is **Colonel Eric “EP” Paulson**. EP and I were second lieutenants together in the 343d, and he is now a master navigator (COMBAT SENT EWO), and the former commander of the 95th Reconnaissance Squadron. Both of these professionals epitomize what the **Wing** is, and I am personally grateful that the Air Force chose such fine individuals for those positions.

Shifting gears, something amazing happened on the 14th of July this year (no not Bastille Day!). Some background first: On November 13th, 1943, **Lt William Shank**, a member of the 338th Fighter Squadron, **55th Fighter Group**, was piloting a P-38 Lightning on a bomber escort mission over Germany and he was killed in action. His recovered remains were not identified until early this year. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Lt Shank was finally laid to rest in his hometown of Harrisonburg, VA. The importance of our heritage was on full display and the family was overwhelmed. *(See detailed article, page 18)*

Finally, a few notes on events around the ol’ flagpole. The weekend of 4-5 August, we had the first ever exclusively Nebraska Air National Guard crew fly the TC-135 on Saturday, and then on Sunday, the entire Total Force was represented.

Active duty maintainers launched a RIVET JOINT RC-135 that was crewed solely by Nebraska Air National Guardsmen and members of the Air Force Reserve. It was a spectacular display of teamwork.

Also, the Offutt AFB *Defenders of Freedom Air Show* took place 11 and 12 August.; highlighted by an F-22 Raptor demo, a P-51 demo, an RC-135 flyby, and an F-35 Lightning II demo, among several other displays. It was a great weekend.

The Air Force/**55th Wing** Birthday Ball is scheduled for the 22 September and I hope a lot of **Association** members will be in attendance!

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve alongside you, and thank you for keeping who we

are alive and well. Thanks in large part to everything you all have done.

This **Wing** and these airmen are, indeed, able to 'See all'.

*Videmus Omnia,*

*Colonel Dave Preisman, Commander, 170th Group (NE ANG), Offutt AFB, NE*

\* \* \* \* \*

## UK MADINGLEY MEMORIAL DAY 2018

The *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* tradition is carried out annually on Memorial Day at the Madingley (Cambridge, UK) American Cemetery with a wreath laying. The wreath is provided (since 2014) by the **55th Wing Association** and presented by active-duty **55th** airmen in honor of "our" **55th Fighter Group**. 2018 was no exception!

THANKS to ALL who made it happen. This was especially poignant with 2018 being the RAF's Centenary.

Photos were provided by **LtCol Matt Cottrill**, Commander of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's* 95th RS, RAF Mildenhall, who literally "went the extra mile" on the Memorial Day weekend, representing the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* at the Madingley and Nuthampstead ceremonies!

Matt also noted the man in the right corner in the photo of the Nuthampstead Memorial is **Leo Croce**, B-17 Co-pilot (602nd BS), who flew 35 combat missions out of Nuthampstead (often escorted by **55th** fighters) in 1944-45.

Croce unveiled the new monument (photo above); and, was quite grateful for the WWII "help" of our **55th Wing** predecessors.



Take a close look at these photos--you'll see the 'fingerprints' of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth!* Once more, these events embody the **55th Wing Association's** commitment to: "Honor those who served ... and serve those who do".

*Contributed by President Spivey, 31 May 2018.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## EC-130 HISTORY AND FUTURE



After 35 years, the EC-130H COMPASS CALL will begin the slow walk to the boneyard in Tucson to make way for the **EC-37B COMPASS CALL**. Immediately after returning from combat operations, aircraft 65-0989 will retire in August 2018, quickly followed by 73-1592 in September 2018. The remaining EC-130H Hercules aircraft fleet will retire at the rate of about one per year through 2025.

Born in 1983, the EC-130H COMPASS CALL became a program of record to replace the aging EB-66 and defend against Russian aggression over the Fulda Gap in Germany. The aircraft has significantly been modified over time to deliver non-kinetic fires against emerging threats throughout the world and across the spectrum of conflict. The aircraft has "*danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings*"(1) and made ears bleed around the globe with operations on six of the seven continents.

These mighty "Herks", with the distinctive 'cheese-grater' tails, have been involved in 15 different major operations. The **55th** Electronic Combat Group (ECG) Jammer team is well into its 15th consecutive year of combat operations with over 10,500 missions flown and close to 65,000 combat hours since 2003.



In 2017 Congress approved a re-host of the mission capabilities from the EC-130H to the Gulfstream based G-550. Designated as the EC-37B COMPASS CALL, the first two aircraft are on contract with an expected delivery in 2023.

These sleeker, modern, fuel efficient aircraft will spend approximately 18 months in the “monster garage” for the exterior face lift, then another 18 months in depot to have the specialized jamming organs installed.

After some flight testing, this aircraft will be certified to assume the role from the EC-130H as the best targeting airborne electronic attack platform in the world.



The spirit that ensured COMPASS CALL lethality and relevance delivered by past and present airmen, civilian and contractors who have flown, maintained and supported the EC-130H will live on in those who will fly, maintain and support the EC-37B. America’s enemies will continue to “Fear what you cannot hear”, and know that “In jam, no one can hear you scream” for generations to come.

It will be a bittersweet time when the turbo-fans of freedom and justice are silenced to be replaced by the hum of jet engines and the “new car smell.” It will mark the start of a new era in the storied legacy of COMPASS CALL.

To memorialize the EC-130Hs over thirty-year history at Davis-Monthan, AFB, AZ, the program office, unit historians and the 355th Fighter Wing are working to have one aircraft permanently displayed in the heritage park as visitors enter the base’s main gate. A majority of the remaining EC-130Hs will come to rest in the boneyard.

As the first aircraft rolls north of the whiskey ramp, we will sing in hushed voices the third verse

of the Air Force Song: “Here is a toast to the host....”

(1, “High Flight” - Pilot Officer **John Gillespie Magee, Jr.**, August 1941)

COMPASS CALL...JAMS!!!!

**Colonel Phil “Snitch” Acquaro,**

**55th Electronic Combat Group Commander,**  
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.

(Article and photos submitted June 2018)

(Ed. Note: the **55th ECG** has been under the **55th Wing** since February 2003.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## MAIL ‘N STUFF



\* \* \* \* \*

Hi, Max,

I received the April newsletter and want to say thank you so much for all the wonderful things you wrote about **Sam**. He was one of a kind and is missed by all of us.

I will send copies of the article to his family. I know they will be appreciative, too.

**Pat Goeden**, Omaha, NE

(From an e-mail 25 April 2018.)

Hi, again Max.

I just wanted to tell you that Sam's family all we're very pleased with the article you wrote about him. Sam's oldest granddaughter from Topeka visited here and said how much she enjoyed reading about her grandpa. She said she learned several things about him that she hadn't known.

You do a great job always, so wanted to say how much we appreciate all you do.

**Pat Goeden**, Omaha, NE

(E-mail 19 June 2018.)

(Pat has been in extensive rehab for over six months due to her injuries suffered in the auto accident, 5 January 2018.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Max,

Another great newsletter. Thanks.

**Tom Reed, Sedalia, CO.**

*(E-mail, 29 April 2018)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Mike (Cook) and Max:

I just received a copy of the April 2018 edition of the **55th Wing Association Videmus Omnia**, even though it appears I am arrears in my dues. I definitely want to get back in good standing as a member of our esteemed **Association**. I will renew my membership dues.

I was at Offutt AFB from August 1965-June 1970, and from August 1977-July 1980. My navigator assignments began and ended in (2ACCS) *Looking Glass*, although the majority of my tenure was in the 343 SRS. Evidently, I just couldn't hold a steady job.

In addition to my flying years, nearly all at Offutt, I also had intelligence and civil engineering assignments. My last six years (1986-92) were as Defense and Air Attaché in the American Embassy, Helsinki, Finland, the land of my roots -- a neat way to wrap up 31 years in the USAF. Watching the Evil Empire slide into the history books was heady stuff for a Finnish American.

During my years at the Trade School on the Hudson (*West Point*), I had a modicum of success in distance running. As such, I was given "*The Flying Finn*" nickname, the same as the legendary 1920s Finnish Olympic distance runner **Paavo Nurmi**.

The attached photo was taken of crew S-03, circa September 1969 in the briefing room of Bldg 497. L-R: **Hank Heward**, EWO; **George Back**, EWO; **Bill Mackie**, Nav-2; **Bob Davis**, Nav-1; **Ed Tribula**, EWO; **Dick Brown**, CP; **Drury**, Pilot, **Don Griffin**, Aircraft and Crew Commander.

*(Ed: All dressed in Class A's, but just one smiley face.)*

I wonder if the mural in back of us is still there. It was painted by EWO, George Back, a Syracuse Univ. Fine Arts graduate, (quite a transition from fine arts to hi-tech EWO work).

Best regards - *Parhain terveisin*,

**Bill Mackie** (Mäkelä), Potomac Falls, VA.

*(From e-mails, 30 April and 1 May 2018)*

*(A detailed article on the mural follows)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Hi, Max:

I was saddened to see **Bill Simon's** and **Dick Panzica's** names on the April TAPS list.

I loved watching you and Bill team-navigate back in the day. Bill was an interesting character! We shared an interest in old Porsches, among other things. By a twist of fate, on his last tour of duty, he flew some of the same missions I used to fly in the Berlin air corridors (only he was in C-130s instead of CT-29s). He will be missed.

I flew several missions with Dick while at Kadena, as well. I hate to see my former crew members pass away.

Thanks for your work on the newsletter.

**Bob Arnold, Denver, CO.**

*(E-mail, 30 April 2018)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Max,

I retired about a year ago and BG (Ret) Don Bacon presided over my ceremony inside the Alamo. I'm sure he's loving life in DC now.

We left San Antonio in July 2017, and moved to the Cincinnati area. My parents are in Northern Kentucky and **Barb's** are in Beavercreek, OH, so we split the difference.

I'm working on modeling and simulation of EW and cyber capabilities for the F-35 as well as various aspects of artificial intelligence to support "cognitive" EW and future capabilities out to the year 2030.



My transition has been a challenge since I was really spoiled in the Air Force. I retired with 30 years in, spent nine years as an O-6, and just had one great job after another (Group/CC at NASIC, Wing/CV at Ramstein, JEW Director, and 24AF Chief of Staff, AF Cyber HQ).

It's different here at Wright-Pat though, as just few folks have any operations background. Very smart folks, but I can see why people are so frustrated with the acquisition process. I guess I'll just have to chance some of that as I go along.

I hope we'll cross paths if I can get my butt out your way. I hit the B-day Ball a couple years ago and had a great time catching up with folks, so maybe I'll see you at one of those events soon.

Again, thanks please let me know if I can be of assistance in any way out around Wright-Pat. I'm about to get engaged in a lot more outside of work....finally.

Very Sincerely,  
**Steve Ling**, Cincinnati, OH.  
(From an e-mail 1 May 2018.)  
\* \* \* \* \*

Hello, Max,

I hope every member reads the article about the history of the **55th Wing** and the Royal Air Force's, starting in 1918 to 2018, a Centenary long relationship. (April 2018 issue of VO)

I spent three TDY's in England at three different bases.

My first TDY was in May 1957, and soon after I arrived there, we went to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey. We were the first **55th SRW** troops to go there. We were told it was just going "Down South" with no name of the base.

There were Army tents set up to stay in and metal plates to drive on. No roads.

When the RB-47 arrived, there was a radar problem. Well, I had to check it out and saw the antenna was spoking as it went around the scope. I removed the scope and brought it back to my tent. I took it apart and did what I thought would fix it.

While I was working on it, this young lieutenant, Regis Urschler, came into my tent and said, "Do you think you can fix it"?

I can never forget that day. When I turned and looked up at him I started laughing! I can't tell you what the pants were like that he had on. I had never

seen anything like them before! He said, "I can take a dump in them for seven days!" LOL! (Ed. Note: They were Turkish trousers called *ahkadosh*.)

After putting the scope back together, I installed it in the plane and turned on the radar. I was happy everything was working again. The next mission went well, so that was good news.

Regis was the pilot of that flight. I didn't know that at the time. He came back to my tent after the flight and said, "You did a good job."

From that day on we were good friends and I flew on a few missions with him.

Ah, the good old days.  
**Elvio Palmieri**, Pampano Beach, FL.  
(From an e-mail 4 May 2018)

\* \* \* \* \*

Max:

Another great job (on the newsletter).

Thanks for including **General Jim Enney** in the TAPS section.

**C. Norman Wood**, Dunnsville, VA  
(E-mail 9 May 2018)

\* \* \* \* \*

Joe Spivey reports:

A former 343<sup>rd</sup> RC-135V/W Raven at Offutt (1979-83), and later assigned to the RC-135S Cobra Ball with the 24<sup>th</sup> SRS at Eielson AFB, AK (1987-91), who went to seminary and returned to the 55<sup>th</sup> as a chaplain (1995-98), where he was assigned to visit both the 343<sup>rd</sup> and the 45<sup>th</sup> RS, is now **The Right Reverend Michael Williams**.

Chaplain Williams, who was a personal friend of the late **1Lt Loren Ginter**, was responsible for orchestrating and officiating the first aircraft 664 Memorial Rededication Ceremony during his time as a Chaplain at Offutt.

Soon after retiring from the Air Force, he moved to Colorado Springs in late 2009. The Rev. Michael Williams (Chaplain, Lt Col, Retired) was called to serve as number two to the Bishop in the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) who is responsible for recruiting and endorsing Anglican clergy to serve as military chaplains.

For the last nine years he has continued service to the Special Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy. The Jurisdiction's staff is dispersed nationally, so he has been able to serve from an office in Colorado Springs.



On 12 April 2018, Williams was consecrated as a Suffragan (Supporting) Bishop in the ACNA, and there were former crew buddies from his flying days at both Offutt and Eielson on hand in Birmingham, AL – and seated as family – to witness and help celebrate the occasion.

Bishop Williams has joined the **Association** and indicated that since he has family living in/near Blair, NE, he hopes he and his wife, **Becky**, will have opportunity to attend **Association** activities in the future.

*(From e-mails 10 and 17 May 2018)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Max,

Wow! Thanks for your kind efforts to help me out with the request *(for extra copies of the article on Dad's experiences)*. Since you sent the files for the newsletter and the article *(April 2018 issue)*, I think I'll send them to family members via email. I know they will appreciate reading it and learning more about what Dad did that perhaps they didn't know before.

I'm glad that the article has inspired others to submit stories that need to be captured for their historical value. I have always felt that the recce community did a lot to win the Cold War, and the tremendous sacrifices they and their families endured for such a long time.

I wish the public knew of those heroics and sacrifices from the past, and that there are those in all branches of the military who are doing the same things every day to keep our country free.

I sure know, and I'm humbled every day by knowing that Dad had a big part in making life better for all of us.

Best Regards,

**Gary Drost** (son of **John**), College Station, TX.

*(From an e-mail, 21 May 2018.)*

*(Note: This editor has indeed had other **55thers** say they intend to write similar tales. Members are encouraged to do so, and send to the web master for adding to the Memory Lane section.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Hey, Max:

Jeff and I are currently celebrating my second retirement in Newport, RI. We went to a lovely

wine pairing at a nearby hotel when a very nice lady sat down next to Jeff.

They struck up a conversation eventually sorting out that she was the daughter of one of the Ravens lost when the Soviets shot down a **55<sup>th</sup> SRW RB-47** *(1 July 1960)*.



Her name: **Linda Goforth Schilder**. Her dad was Capt **Oscar Goforth**.

Incredibly small world. I had given her my card at a reunion sometime in the past and she remembered me! Here is a picture.

*Trish Seinwill, (On the right.)*

*(From an e-mail 11 July 2018.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Contributed by **Don Foster**,  
CMSgt, Retired, Graham, WA.

I read with great interest the story of **Colonel John Drost** and the *'Iron Lung Project'* *(April issue)*. I'm one of the few people still around who knows something about it. I was the crew chief, my assistant crew chief was **Norm Kelley**.

We 'were' volunteered to go to the Lockheed plant in Ontario, CA in 1963. The only thing we were told was we would be taking care of one of our aircraft that was undergoing modification and we would not need uniforms. When we arrived, no one knew why we were there and we were basically told to stay out of the way.

For about the next three months all we did, every seven days was to use an axle jack and rotate the tires.

Then one morning we were told that they were going to push the aircraft out of the hangar that afternoon and we needed to get it ready to fly. *(RB-47H, tail, #4291.)*

Things got real interesting. I went to see the 'chief of maintenance' at March AFB, CA, in civilian clothes and with a line badge with a piece of tape over the name of my home base. Looking back I bet he was thinking 'where did this clown come from'. I didn't want much. Just to take a 'lox

cart' from his base to the Lockheed Plant and for him to send some PE people to inspect the survival kits and parachutes.



*(TSgt Foster lower right corner, Norm Kelly to his right, and Major Clyde Duncan, navigator, on the far left. No ID on parka-dude, back to camera. Taken at Yokota AB Japan, Spring 1965.)*

After we flew, I wanted to bring the approach and drag chutes to March for repacking, and ask if they would stop whatever they were doing, get them repacked for me right away so I could take them back to the aircraft at Lockheed ASAP.

I sat in an outer office for about an hour and the colonel came out and said "Are you from Forbes?" Then, I got what I needed

I remember the periscope as a **Bill Henderson** and **John Eagles** project. John was the Lockheed Project Engineer. The periscope was in the R3, not the R1 position, along with the antenna controls.

The first TDY was to Yokota AB, Japan, in 1963. ITT Corp. sent people to take care of the ECM black boxes. Lockheed did not send anyone to take care of the deployable antenna, cable reel, or any the mechanical stuff.

#### **TROUBLE WITH THE ANTENNAS**

Right off the bat we lost the first antenna. Everyone looked at me and I said "I don't know a thing about it". A few days later, John Eagles, from Lockheed, showed up. That TDY was beset with a lot of antenna mechanical problems. We had a lot of 30 and 40 hour works periods.

Finally, everything was turned over to me.

We could get two flights from the antenna before it had to be reattached. Each antenna had to

have nose weight added and we found out when it was released from the clam shell doors, if it was in a slight nose down position it would fly the best. If it came out nose up, it was going to be lost. The R-3 could watch this through the periscope and let me know how it released.

It should be noted when I finally got to looking in the ECM compartment, the wiring was a mess.

I had a lot of trouble with the 'Colonel', the SAC Commander at Yokota, until the CIA gentleman, **Frank Booker**, took him by the arm one day and lead him away from the aircraft. I never saw the colonel again.

Later, when we came back from Yokota to Forbes in 1965, I processed in from TDY and then processed out PCS the same day. After 11 years, 9 years as a crew chief, and 13 TDY'S, I left the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** and Forbes in October 1965.

Retired after three more years at McCord AFB, WA; then worked at Boeing until retiring a second time in 1995.

*(From a letter and e-mails, 16-24 June 2018)*

\* \* \* \* \*

### **FIGHTIN' FIFTY-FIFTH MURAL**

The three panel mural once resided on the south wall of the briefing room in Bldg 497, which at the time was occupied by the 343<sup>rd</sup> SRS and the recon operations directorate (DOR) secured area.

As noted previously, it was the work of Captain **George Back**. *(In photo at left.)*

His recollection is that he created it in the spring of 1967, not long after the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** had moved from Forbes AFB, KS, to Offutt. It was done of his own volition and during



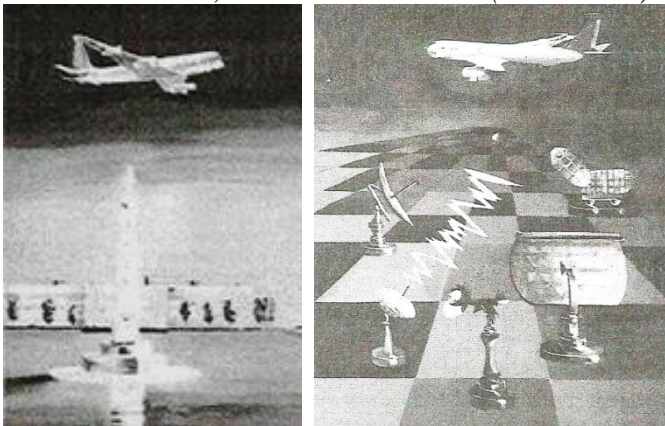
off duty time (mostly).

Three plywood panels covered in canvas were laid out on the floor. The panels were each eight feet high and four feet wide and in full color ("*the paint had maybe some beer mixed in.*").





The center panel depicted ***Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*** aircraft from different eras (P-51, P-38, RB-50, RB-47, RC-135), flying from the various operating locations around the globe during WWII and the Cold War, all under the **55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing** globe and camera shield and the motto ribbon, "***Videmus Omnia***" (*We See All*).



The left panel displayed an RC-135C over what was then SAC Headquarters, Bldg 500, at Offutt, named for **General Curtis E. LeMay**.

Another RC in the right panel represents the operational aspect of the **55<sup>th</sup>** global reconnaissance mission. The checkerboard design is emblematic of the Cold War "chess games", and with the sleepy-eyed crow and a variety of electronic targets as chess pieces. *(All photos from George Back)*

*(This editor witnessed the removal of the mural's three panels when Bldg 497 was undergoing renovation, circa 1988, after over 20 years in place.*

*The plan at the time was to send them to the SAC Museum, which was at the north end of Offutt then. However, now no one seems to know what*

*actually happened to them, and the panels are now in the black hole of wherever.*

*Members of the **Association** have made multiple inquires and diligent search of the mural's whereabouts over the years, but to no avail.*

*It is shameful that such an historic work of art is lost.*

*If any readers have credible knowledge on the paintings location, we would be most grateful.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **LT JARVIS OFFUTT'S GRAVESTONE IS FIXED**

*Contributed by **Ken Bauer***

To all, FYI:

I received a phone call today (*1 May*) from **Ms. Kelli**, from Forrest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha. She informed me that the work order for **First Lt Jarvis Offutt's** headstone to be raised to the proper level, and that all of the Offutt family stones were raised accordingly, was accomplished.

This action was the culmination of the efforts of **RAF Master Aircrew (MAcr) Keith (Nutty) Wing**, 56 Squadron. MAcr Wing went to the cemetery to pay respects to an historic comrade, with **Mike Hoskins**, in the fall of 2017.

1Lt Offutt was assigned to RAF 56 Squadron, "The Firebirds", 12 August 1918, and died the next day while practicing an aggressive maneuver that caused the aircraft's tail to separate.

Nutty noted that the headstone needed tidying as grass had grown over the flat-laying stone. While doing so, he noted there was lettering on the side of the stone, and he investigated.

He found that the headstone had sunk about five inches into the ground over the past 100 years, to the point that the story of 1Lt Jarvis Offutt was entirely hidden.

Not having the tools to correct this, as he was determined to: "Make the grave site proper upon his return".

Fast forward to February 2018, Nutty asked me to accompany him to visit Lt Offutt's grave site, but we had to stop by a hardware store to get a shovel.

I jokingly asked if we might be exhuming Lt Offutt, and he said no, just making his site proper. After sourcing a pick and shovel combination, and other supplies, we were off.



Nutty cleared the site of three inches of snow and began digging. Unfortunately, February in Nebraska meant 12-16 inches of rock-hard, frozen earth to contend with.

Undeterred, Nutty wielded the pick so hard he broke the handle. Still motivated, he went off to find the grounds keepers for more tools. I was certain we would be arrested directly for trespassing, but I went about mending the pick.

Nutty returned with two puzzled, but happy grounds keepers who provided hammer and crowbar. After two and a half hours of sheer determination and grunt labor, we managed to clear four inches down, and enough material pulled away to see the entire inscription on the side of the stone.

That day, I told Nutty, "Today I am honored and saddened. Here you stand, an RAF 56 Sqd member making certain that this grave is proper for a man who was in your squadron for 24 hours during WWI, while the base named after him, has not had anyone out here for years."



*Headstone after being raised and cleaned.  
(Photo provided by Bauer.)*

I remarked to Nutty that the RAF often arrives saying that they are 'hat in hand', but I would disagree. The RAF brings with it nobility, *esprit de corps*, and a sense of history and team work that we may have lost.

I promised that when the ground was no longer frozen, I would have the headstone made proper. Today (*1 May*), that was completed for Lt Jarvis Offutt and the headstones of his family.

Respectfully, **Ken Bauer**, Omaha.

*(Ed. Note: Ken is a former 45<sup>th</sup> RS commander, and is a former active duty member of the Association Board of Directors, August 2005-*

*December 2007. He now serves as Senior Technical Advisor, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Plans, Program and Requirements Division as a government service employee.)*



## WWII 55<sup>TH</sup> PILOT REMAINS RETURN HOME

**Lt William W. Shank** was a P-38 pilot in the 338<sup>th</sup> Fighter Sqd, 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group. He was killed in action on 13 November 1943 during a fierce dog-fight near Bremen, Germany.

Lt Shank's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Cambridge American Cemetery in the UK.

His remains were unidentified until March of this year when the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) lab based at Offutt AFB, recovered and identified Lt Shank's remains from the field in which his aircraft crashed.

After being returned to his family in Harrisonburg, VA, they were interred at the Woodbine Cemetery there on 14 July 2018 with full military honors.

The Shank family held a reunion to coincide with the funeral.

A flyover of a TC-135 from Offutt AFB, NE, manned by a volunteer crew from the 338<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Sqd, including Sqd Commander **LtCol Derek Rachel** and Ops Officer **LtCol Derrick Michaud**, was performed in tribute, (call sign *Rebel 01*...the last call sign Lt Shank used).

The flyover at about 1000 ft. was on time and the family was appropriately impressed. A reception followed at the Asbury Methodist Church.

**The 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** was represented by Vice President Ricky McMahon who attended the service. Also there were **CMSgt Karen Grider**, **Major James Luttkus**, 338<sup>th</sup> CTS; and **Casualty Assistance Officer Army Captain Jacob Lueders**, among others.



“I am pleased I drove to Harrisonburg to participate and glad I was able to tag along and contribute with the Chief and Major. I was more than happy to hand out two dozen **55th Wing Association** lapel pins to the Shank family; and foremost, honored to represent today’s legacy of the **55th Wing Association** and the 338th CTS that had its origin with the likes of Bill Shank world and the greatest generation 77 years ago.” Ricky Mac.

*(McMahon was the founder and the first commander of the 338th CTS, 1999-2001.)*

*(Appreciation to Ricky Mac, Chief Grider, and Colonel Preisman for significant contributions to this article.)*

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## 55<sup>TH</sup> OPERATIONS GROUP CHANGES COMMAND

The **55th** Operations Group held a change of command ceremony 13 July 2018. **Colonel Eric Paulson** assumed command from retiring commander Colonel Joseph Santucci in a ceremony officiated by **Colonel Michael Manion, 55th Wing Commander**.



*L-R: Col Manion,, Col Paulson.  
CMSgt Mike Rager, guidon bearer, center.*

The **55th OG** is the largest operations group in the Air Force with 11 squadrons and two detachments, operating seven models of aircraft, and consisting of approximately 3,200 personnel.

The group executes global airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and treaty verification missions directed by the President, Secretary of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, combatant commanders, and national intelligence

agencies. The **55th OG** has been deployed to some degree for nearly 28 consecutive years.

Prior to assuming command, Paulson was the chief of information operations at Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. He also has had three prior tours in the **55th** as an RC-135 EWO, and commanded the 95<sup>th</sup> RS at RAF Mildenhall, UK.

*(Photo and basic article courtesy of 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs, edited by Moore.)*

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## 55<sup>TH</sup> MAINTENANCE GROUP CHANGES COMMAND

Colonel Manion also officiated the 3 August **55th** Maintenance Group change of command ceremony. **Colonel Michael Hammond** assumed command of the group from retiring **Colonel Clayton Seale**, who led the unit the past three years. Both officers are career maintainers.



*L-R: Col Manion, Col Hammond  
CMSgt John Pierce, guidon bearer, center.*

Colonel Hammond’s previous assignment was Commander, 51<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Group at Osan AB, Republic of Korea the last two years.

The group has 1,200 personnel who provide a wide variety of maintenance for 33 aircraft assigned to the **55th Wing**, and transient planes. The flying hour program is over 14,000 in support of high priority Joint Chiefs of Staff directed tasking for worldwide reconnaissance, intelligence and surveillance.

*(Photo and basic article courtesy of 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs, edited by Moore.)*



## NOT YOUR TRADITIONAL CREW PHOTO



This creative crew picture differs from the usual stilted crew line-up. Taken in 1961 while deployed from Forbes AFB, KS, at Incirlik AB, Turkey, atop an EB-47 Tell Two aircraft.

We see at left **Johnny Johnson**, navigator, looking for the right path ahead. Crew Commander **Ray Morris** has the reins of the beast, while co-pilot **Mo Akin** has his trusty D-1 sextant at the ready. Let us not speculate on what R-1 **Wes Deloach** is doing astride that pylon. Intrepid R-2 **George Back** seems to be attempting to fly solo.

*(Photo provided by Back, June 2018)*



## NEWSLETTER INPUTS WELCOME

*Yes, we are aware that these newsletters tend to be Offutt-centric. It is where stuff happens.*

*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, preferably; or mail to the address in the Directory on page 5. We encourage and welcome any input.*



*When 55th events occur in your area (Florida, Texas, MD/VA/DC metroplexes, Denver/CSprings, California, wherever), gatherings great or small,*

*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. Send 'em in.*

*The only way to broaden our coverage is to get input from throughout Fifty-Fifth-land.*

*Letters, articles, photos, and other items in this issue are examples.*

*(Contributions may be,..... well, of course, they will be, edited for content, readability, and spacing. It is what I do.)*

*Thanks, and Videmus Omnia, Max.*



## EAST COAST "CHAPTER"

East coast area alumni, including active duty, retirees, Pentagon habitués, and 'beltway bandits', have occasional social gatherings. Events are organized periodically for reconnecting and camaraderie in the 55<sup>th</sup> spirit.

For information on 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association East events, or to get on the e-mail listing, phone Ricky McMahon's cell: 571-643-2602, or e-mail at potomacpistol@gmail.com. His cohort is Trish Seinwill, pseinwill@yahoo.com. Pass your contact information to either of them.

In addition, if you know of any former *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth'er* in the National Capitol Region who is **not currently** receiving 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association information, let Ricky or Trish know, or provide contact information for that individual, and one of them will make sure they get an Association membership form and the information they need to become connected.



## SAN ANTONIO LUNCH BUNCH

This alumni 'chapter' is still active. As **Charlie McBride** and **Dave Frutchey** report, they gather the **second** Thursday each month, 1200 hours, and





have **relocated** to **TGI Fridays**, McCullough and Loop 410.

Initially, five veteran **55th** crewdogs began the group a few years ago. Typically, 9-12 attend each monthly gathering. It is a time of reliving the past and just enjoying one another's company.

To join this convivial group, contact McBride at cmcbride40@yahoo.com, or Frutchev at dfrutchev@att.net. Better yet, just show up.

\* \* \* \* \*

*If there are any new 55th 'chapters' (big, small, in-between) forming out there, please let it be known so the word can spread. California, Florida, Colorado, and other parts of Texas (to list just a few) all have pockets of alums where such activity may occur.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## EC-135 RESTORATION UPDATE

The **Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum** is four years into what is now a five year, \$250,000 project, on EC-135C Aircraft 38049.

Fund raising is still slow, but growing at about \$96,000. There has been **little to no** help from Boeing, which built the aircraft, or other corporations.

**You can send a donation to: SAC AEROSPACE MUSEUM, Attn: Development, c/o EC-135, 2821 West Park Hwy, Ashland, NE, 68003; or on line at: SACMuseum.org/donate, and state it is for the EC restoration. They need all the assistance they can get.**

The ultimate goal is to restore the plane internally to its original status when it flew the last *Looking Glass* mission in 1990. The bird was **the** high time EC with 29,151.2 airborne hours.

The aircraft sat ground alert for another couple of years before actual retirement. Then it sat outside the Museum for over 20 years.

The aircraft will eventually be displayed (*without wings and engines*) in the main museum viewing area; projected year is 2020.

This is a long and arduous project requiring dedication, and a lot of time and elbow grease. Even though the reinstallation of equipment pace has

picked up, there is still a lot of work to do and no detail is overlooked.



*EC-135 tail #049 and a dedicated group of restoration volunteers.*

Progress on the restoration, while substantial, one can determine why it is a time consuming and labor intensive effort, as it can be monitored in pictures posted to the following *Facebook* sites: SAC ACC (Strategic Air Command – Airborne Command and Control), LOOKING GLASS (SAC ABNCP) AND PACCS, FANS OF STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND, and SAC VETERANS.

*(Updated material and photo provided by Hank Carriger, Bellevue, NE, Volunteer Coordinator, from e-mail 28 July 2018.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

# TAPS



**ANTICOLI, Jean**, 83, 17 July 2018, Overland Park, KS. She was the widow of **Lou**, an EC-135 navigator in the 2ACCS at Offutt AFB, NE, circa 1970s. He passed in 1997. Both were long-time residents of Bellevue, NE, where Jean was active in her church and other organizations.

**BARNETT, Mark E.**, 63, 2 June 2018, Bellevue, NE; wife, **Deb**. Mark was an EWO in B-52s before coming to the 343<sup>rd</sup> at Offutt, and flying on RC-135s during the 1990s. He retired in 2002 and served as a USAF Government Service employee at US Strategic Command J5 at Offutt managing key Command contracts.

**BIGGS, John**, 80+, 12 November 2016, Orlando, FL; wife, **Kay**. An RB-47 pilot and simulator instructor with the **55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW)** at Forbes AFB, KS, in the 1960s, John later served at McCoy AFB, FL, as a maintenance officer.

**BORDEN, Andrew G., Jr**, 83, 19 July 2018, San Antonio, TX; wife **Sue**. A New Jersey native, Andy served in the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** as an RB-47 EWO at Forbes in the 1960s. He had a Vietnam tour as a navigator in AC-130 gunships. He was on staff in the Tactical Air Warfare Center; served in NATO in The Hague as the EW Principal Scientist; and was Director of Intel at SAC HQ at Offutt. With two Master's degrees in mathematics, after retiring from the Air Force, he taught at a local community college for several years.

**CAREY, Joseph E., Jr.**; 83, 2 December 2017, Kansas City, KS; wife of **55** years, **Beatrice**. Joe was an RB-47 AC with the **55<sup>th</sup>** at Forbes, during the 1960s. One mission he flew during the Cuban Crisis in October 1962 was credited with getting a photo of a Soviet ship loaded with missiles headed for Cuba. After retiring from the Air Force, Joe became a nurse until retiring a second time.

**GRIMES, Bill**, 81, 10 August 2018, Dayton, OH; wife, **Judy**. Bill was a B-58 navigator before going to Eielson AFB, AK, in RC-135D aircraft. He was mainstay in the Big Safari program during and after his Air Force career for many years, and he wrote a book of its definitive history.

**SHAW, William J.**, 60, 24 May 2017, Annapolis, MD; wife, **Oren**. Bill graduated from the USAF Academy in 1978 and served 23 years. An RC-135 EWO with the 343<sup>rd</sup> at Offutt and staff at Det 1 in Athens in the 1980s; he later was assigned to NSA in space related operations.

**TAYLOR, Marion**, 93, 21 July 2018, Topeka, KS; a Nebraska native and widow of **Jim**, a **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** pilot in RB-47s at Forbes for ten years in the

1960s, who passed in July 2016. They frequently attended reunions and Birthday Balls.

**WEBSTER, David A.**, 61, 15 May 2018, Council Bluffs, IA; wife, **Licia**. A 1980 graduate of the USAF Academy, David was an EWO in RC-135s in the 343<sup>rd</sup> SRS at Offutt in the 1980s. After separating from the Air Force in 1991, he worked as a contractor at US Strategic Command, then Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha.

**WOOD, C. Norman**, 80, 9 June 2018, Dunnsville, VA; wife, **Elizabeth (B)**. A Dallas native, Norm began his flying career in 1961 in the 343<sup>rd</sup> at Forbes, as an RB-47 EWO, and retired as a lieutenant general in 1992. (*See article to follow*)

\* \* \* \* \*

**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.

*It is **not an imperative** that the departed be a member of the Association. If one has any relevant connection to **55th** history, they will be remembered.*

**Please include next of kin and an address to whom an Association condolence message may be sent by the President.**

**The date of demise, age, location; and if known, connection to the 55<sup>th</sup> - base, time frame and Air Force specialty (crewmember, maintenance, communications) will be helpful.**

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## **TAPS ON THE ASSN WEB SITE**

The **TAPS** section has a listing for access to the names and dates of those in the **55<sup>th</sup>** family who have passed. **There is a search box to quickly find names.**

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 webmaster to do so.

Please have the date of demise (*at least the year*) for placement in chronology.

\* \* \* \* \*

**C. Norman Wood**, Lt General, USAF, Retired, passed away unexpectedly on 9 June 2018 at his home in Dunnsville, VA. He was born in Dallas in 1938.

A University of Texas graduate, he entered the Air Force in Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, TX, August 1960, and was commissioned in November that year.

*(Of note: Norm was the first graduate of OTS to attain the rank of general officer.)*

He was assigned to James Connally AFB, TX, and received his navigator wings in July 1961; then went to EW School at Keesler AFB, MS.

His first operational assignment in July 1962 was as an EWO in RB-47s in the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** at Forbes AFB, NE. He was assigned to a senior stand/eval crew. His Raven 1, Major **Dick Barron**, was impressed with Lt. Wood and he predicted: "This guy is going to make below-the-zone-promotions." Tall, handsome, articulate, he was the ideal Air Force officer poster guy.

Norm was sent to Kadena AB, Okinawa, in the original cast of the 82<sup>nd</sup> SRS, in November 1967 as an RC-135M instructor EWO, on crew E-04 with **Danny Curzon** as AC, flying missions in support of the SE Asia effort until February 1969.

He then became a career intelligence officer where he was destined to rise through several management and command positions.

The first of his assignments at Offutt, was with the 544<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Reconnaissance Technical Wing. He then moved to SAC HQ as chief of Central Intel Branch, DCS, Intelligence, until July 1972.

His next tour was in Vietnam, J2, HQ MAC-V. After that, on to Air Command and Staff College as a DMG; then Air Staff duties in the Pentagon in 1974-78. In his 'spare' time, Norm earned a Masters Degree in public administration from Auburn University.



After National War College in 1979, it was back to Offutt where he had multiple assignments in the 544<sup>th</sup> Strategic Intel Wing (commander); in HQ SAC, Intelligence; and on the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff (JSTPS) from 1979 to 1985, separated by serving for two years (1982-84) as executive director for the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board in the White House as his impressive ascension continued.

A tour in US European Command HQ as Director of Intelligence began in September 1986 before returning to DC in HQ USAF Intelligence in May 1988.

His final assignment in April 1990 was Director, Intelligence Community Staff, Washington, DC. In that capacity he was the principle deputy for, and senior military advisor to, the Director of CIA. At that time he was promoted to lieutenant general. He retired in June 1992 with 32 years active service.

Upon retirement he was senior vice president for BDM Federal, Inc. (Intel), then president and CEO of Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) for five years, and was active in community and service organizations.

The general was the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Birthday Ball featured speaker, January 1991; he also was the keynote speaker for the dedication of the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association** Cold War Memorial and reunion at Dayton in September 2003.

He was honored by the Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, AL, May 2006, along with four other distinguished graduates of aviation cadets, OTS or OCS, all of whom just happened to be **55<sup>th</sup>** alums: **Robb Hoover, Harry Tull, Regis Urschler, Larry Mitchell** (OCS).

*(Of course, there is a very interesting back-story on that event as related in the June 2006 issue of the **Videmus Omnia**, pgs 10-11, available on the **Association** web site for those who are interested.)*

*(Personal anecdote: Norm Wood and I knew each other and were friends from the days at Forbes, Kadena, and his tours at Offutt.*

*At the 1991 Ball, the first held off base, attendance was about 550, and people checked in at a registration table to get table assignments in those days, and yes, were given those pre-made, stick-on*



paper nametags to put on mess dress, tuxedos and the ladies' beautiful ball gowns.

Likely because I was one of the first people he recognized, General Wood, in full mess dress, 3-star array, approached me and said, "Max, I don't have a nametag!!" As tactfully as I could, my reply was, "General, I'm certain everyone here knows who you are." We had a good laugh and shook hands before he moved on.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## MEMORIAL BRICK ORDERS STILL CAN DO

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.

Orders have slowed considerably, but anyone interested in doing so should contact **Jim Thomas who has taken over as brick coordinator.**

He can be reached at Jthomas927@cox.net, or snail mail to: 4418 Anchor Mill DR, Bellevue, NE, 68123.

There are currently over 600 dedicated bricks in the patio with about 100 available for new orders. Since 2003 about 50 new bricks have been added. Some years a few new bricks are ordered, some years, none.

**Jack Kovacs reports for this year:** We've reached the cutoff date (June 30th) for purchasing any bricks for the Memorial patio, with any hope to be installed by the end of the summer. Any additional orders will not be installed until next summer.

Any new brick orders can still be sent to Thomas anytime, but no later than **30 June 2019**, to allow time for processing, engraving, and installing by the end of summer 2019.

\* \* \* \* \*

Anyone in the Dayton area who would like to volunteer to help Jack Kovacs and Larry LaFlair with their diligent, periodic efforts to maintain the clean appearance of the Memorial grounds, please contact Jack at jla2c3k@aol.com to coordinate

and learn what work it entails. They are advancing in senior status and can use the assistance.

Hey, it gets one outdoors for a time...and it will get your name in future newsletters.

After a spring cleanup, time required is usually about an hour every two weeks or so. No real heavy lifting. Mainly: sweeping, weed pulling, stooping, bending, elbow grease.

\* \* \* \* \*

## REUNIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

### OMAHA/OFFUTT AREA POPULAR FOR REUNIONS IN SEPTEMBER 2018

\* \* \* \* \*

*It is noteworthy that the chairmen of these reunions are members of the 55th Wing Association*

\* \* \* \* \*

## BIG SAFARI ASSOCIATION

**This one is for 5-9 September 2018**

The Embassy Suites in downtown Omaha near the Old Market as HQ. **Cutoff date for special suite rate was 6 August.**

**Reunion registration cutoff is 24 August.**

**Bill Ernst** did the initial planning before deciding to relocate to Florida. He then turned over the reins to **LtCol Corey O'Tool**, Commander of the 45th RS at Offutt.

Many BSA members also belong to the **55th Wing Association**, and vice versa, and with events slated to interact with the active duty **55thWing**, this should be an interesting and productive gathering.



\* \* \* \* \*

## SAC ACCA REUNION

Slated for 12 through 16 September 2018

Dick Doolittle in charge.

\* \* \* \* \*

## B-47 STRATOJET ASSOCIATION

Scheduled 18-21 September 2018

Dick Purdum leads this one.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

APRIL 2019

OMAHA/OFFUTT, NE



DETAILS TBD/TBA

BUT THE WORD WILL GO OUT VIA  
THE WEB SITE AND NETWORKING AS  
SOON AS THEY DEVELOP.

ANTICIPATE REGISTRATION  
PACKAGE IN JANUARY.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 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.



All the items can be viewed on the **Association**  
web site at [www.55wa.org](http://www.55wa.org), and click on the BX,  
Clothing Sales link.

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

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

**Now available in a variety of colors**, available  
in sizes medium, large, XL, and XXL. **The cost of  
the current stock is \$35 each.**

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

\* \* \* \* \*

The golf/baseball  
caps have the dual shield  
logo on the front, and an  
adjustable back strap.

**They go for \$12  
each.**



*Shirt and cap photos by  
Sargent.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**There are charges  
for priority postage to be added to the individual  
item cost, now at a flat rate of \$7.00.** More ways  
to identify with your **Association** and "show the  
logo" as appropriate for reunions, official, social  
and casual functions, wherever and whenever.

\* \* \* \* \*

Anyone desiring to purchase any of the advertised items should contact the haberdasher, **William (Bill) Sargent** at 2711 Northwood Circle, Papillion, NE, 68133 or William488@cox.net

**Checks for the full amount of your order should be made to the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association, and Bill will promptly respond to your order.**

**There is now a web site set-up with a vast assortment of items and colors that members can order with the Association logo.**

Site address/link is:  
**<https://fiftyfifthwingassociation.qbstores.com/a/login>**

**When you order on line, you can preview what the merchandise looks like with the Association dual logo, and select whatever you choose.**

**The site usually has a special running, and once you sign up, they will e-mail you a coupon for money off the purchase. Postage is included when you order.**

**The new shirts/apparel are at a substantial savings, some as low as \$22 including shipping!**

For those who do not have a computer available, you will still be able to order through me via the US Postal Service.

*Bill Sargent, Association Haberdasher*

\* \* \* \* \*

## 55<sup>TH</sup> FASHION PINS

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

Gents and ladies, it makes a great birthday or anniversary accessory gift, or holiday stocking stuffer.

Classy, but inexpensive.

*(Shown actual size)*

The **Association** does **not** sell these pins and receives **no** money from the sales. But, as a service for those who wish to possess same: **Erwin's Jewelers, Frank**

**Kumor**, proprietor, 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 one of the **55<sup>th</sup>** Commander's Wingmen, awarded the coveted leather flight jacket awarded for superior and continued community support to the **55th Wing.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## LAW PERMITS VETERANS SALUTING FLAG AND ANTHEM

*WASHINGTON (AFRNS) October 31, 2008*

**Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform are allowed to render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect, October 2008.**

"The military salute is a gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said **Dr. James B. Peake**, (*then*) Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The added provision improves a previous federal law that authorized veterans to render the military-style salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did **not** address salutes during the national anthem.

The most recent change, **authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel**, was sponsored by **Senator Jim Inhofe** of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which **President George W. Bush** signed October 14, 2009.

*(Edited/updated article courtesy of VA News.*

*Republished as a reminder to exercise your privilege.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

## WHO SHOT WHAT

Graphics from Clip Art, and organization web sites. Hurst and Wood, AF official photos; Shank from bio; Spy V, **55<sup>th</sup>** pin by Moore; 'Mad Max' graphic by **Patricia Gros**, friend of the **Association.**





# Videmus Omnia



**55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association, Inc.**  
(Formerly – 55<sup>th</sup> 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 55<sup>th</sup> Strat Recon Wing? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dates of Service)



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

When were you a member of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dates of Service)



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

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

What is your present occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

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

\* Note – Expiration date of **NEW MEMBERS only** joining after 1 Oct extended 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.**

