

Videmus Omnia

55th WING

ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019!

As mentioned in one of last year's "PREZGRAMS" (*as Max calls them*), 2018 literally flew by. For our **Association** it was another year of accomplishments (*covered later*); but nothing will compare with what lies ahead in 2019. Specifically, the **Omaha Reunion**

promised when we last "re-unioned" in Tampa.

Mark your calendars and set your watches for 2019's **4 through 6 April!** Details will be forthcoming as contracts are signed, agendas developed, and infrastructure installed. Planning sessions began the week of 14 January in full ardor.

Much like the theme for the College World Series hosted here, your **Association's** 2019 Reunion is a truly a return onto the "*Road to Omaha*". **There will be a variety of activities which will preclude attendees "doing the same old thing"**; while still ensuring many of our basic tenants (BoD/membership/mixing meetings, "liquidation" socials, **Association** banquet, golf tourney, OAFB briefings, historical tours, and more) will be available.

Of course, the highlights will always be the chance to renew friendships, strengthen acquaintances, and meet ***Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*** members--past, present and future.

Our "Base of Operations" will be the Marriott Courtyard which shares a banqueting space with the Embassy Suites (where the 2014 Omaha Reunion was hosted) in LaVista, NE, near Cabela's/Bass Pro, COSTCO, and I-80, just a short "sortie" to

activities at Offutt, Downtown/Old Market, golf, museums, and more.

Details (such as the current OAFB runway repair are: UNDER CONSTRUCTION) will be forthcoming, so look for updates as details are finalized. As always, we will conduct the entire affair in a way which will "Honor those who served and serve those who do." Your best way to do this, is simply, **PLAN TO JOIN US!**

In addition to planning to publish three newsletters annually, **Association** activities continue at break-neck speed between the issues.

Last September, many of **55th Association** members helped host the 2018 BIG SAFARI reunion by providing hospitality suite logistics, transportation, planning oversight, golf tourney support, dinner representation and more. There is, indeed, a special bond between the BIG SAFARI Program and the ***Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*** which has extended for decades. Each of us should be proud of the many (and on-going!) successes derived from this unique relationship.

For example, during their reunion, the BIG SAFARI Association praised ***Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*** participation in rededicating the famed AMBER HALL plaque. We plan to follow suit with a like-ceremony when we meet this April to honor those **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing** members lost in that ill-fated event. (*See Tales.*)

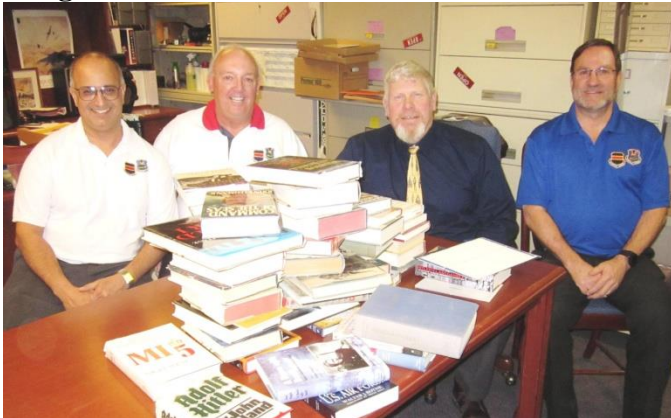
As you will find in later parts of this publication, September 2018 also saw many **Association** members participating in several **55th Wing** Heritage events, including Hall of Fame inductions (**Jim Thomas** and **Rich Holsinger**), awarding two (uncommon event; but this year, a true tie!) stellar airmen with our **Association's** Award for Excellence: **TSgt John A. Smith**



(Contracting) and **A1C Christopher Puglisi** (Maintenance), and attending the **Wing's** annual Air Force Birthday Ball.

Additionally, **Association** members presented the **55th Wing** Historian **John McQueney** with a collection of military-themed books donated from the family estate of WWII veteran aviator, **Colonel John F. Watters**. The exchange was admirably facilitated by Watters' personal friend and Hall of Fame member, **Reg Urschler**; the Wing Historian's Office and the **Association**.

With Mr. McQueney's coordination, the **Wing's** Public Affairs office covered the event.



In the Wing Historian's office, displaying the impressive cache' of Watters' memorabilia.

L-R: MoKrishna, Spivey, McQueney, Bill Sargent, Association Historian.

(Photo taken by 55th Wing PA, provided by Spivey.)

Time passes too quickly, and since the last publication, the USAF announced that later this year, the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's Wing Commander, Colonel Michael (Gravy) Manion** will be replaced by **Colonel Gavin P. Marks**. *(Among many other position changes.)*

We still have time to wish Gravy a fond farewell; but trust we will continue the close relationship with his follow-on, as soon as practical. This will, of course, include our traditional dinner night introduction with **Association** local BoD and other members.

As we observed every day, "The Sun Never sets on the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth**" and, 2019 looks to be another banner year as we gaze into the future. Start the year off with the Reunion and then join us in as many activities as possible.

Once again, personal thanks and **Association** kudos go to all the **Association** members who make our plans reality. YOU make it happen!

Wishing each of you a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** in 2019, and hope to see you on the "Road to Omaha".

Videmus Omnia, Spy V



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OMAHA/OFFUTT REUNION SLATED FOR APRIL 2019

The **55th Wing Association** will hold its **33rd** reunion **4-6 April 2019** at Omaha/Offutt. **Mark your calendars now and please plan on arranging your lives and schedules to attend.**

Most recent reunions in the area were September 2006 and April 2014, **but this year's committee is striving for new and different events and/or tours to avoid some redundancies of previous gatherings.**



The headquarters for the festivities will be the **Marriott Courtyard** in LaVista, NE, adjacent to the **Embassy Suites/Convention Center**. You can begin your planning by calling the hotel direct to make reservations at **(402) 339-4900**. Be sure use the group name "**55th Wing**"

Association", to get the special reunion rate of \$104 (single/double) per night (plus taxes and fees, of course). Rates are good for days either side of the reunion. So, come early and stay late.

You have until 12 March 2019 to make your reservations at the hotel. Anyone calling after that date may be told that the block is unavailable, and then offered the standard nightly rate, which is higher; although you can ask for military/government rate.

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

Rest assured dear members, Reunion Chairman Spivey and his intrepid crew have laid the groundwork for another superior reunion and will build on that.

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The complete reunion schedule of events, registration information, costs and a form will be forthcoming in a separate mailing (first class) just as soon as details are solidified.

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Plans will include generous hospitality suite hours, Thursday and Friday events, and a variety of optional tours.

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

The reunion will culminate with a grand banquet Saturday evening.

Recommended attire for gentlemen on this occasion will be the Association tie with dark business suit or navy blue jacket. Ladies, dress is by personal choice. (As if that were ever doubted.)

You now have just enough info to whet the appetite for the BIG ONE. Make your reservations early and often. Be here before you know it.

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Downtown Central Omaha

Yes, friends, Omaha has a vibrant, revitalized center city and developing mid- and north downtown areas with a convention/event center, and the ballpark for the NCAA College World Series, which has generated the attendant bars and restaurants.

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

Omaha boasts the eclectic Old Market, which has a variety of shops and eateries; and a plethora of famous steak houses, challenging golf courses, and casinos on the Iowa side of Missouri River.

There are new buildings and roads/traffic patterns on Offutt. The new state-of-the-art, \$1B+ USSTRATCOM headquarters is well on its way to completion. Come see for yourselves.



The former SAC Museum (*renamed the Strategic Air Command and Space Museum*) near Ashland, NE, about 20 minutes from the Marriott, houses numerous historic aircraft and displays. Among them the original memorial obelisk that was the model for the **55th SRW Cold War Memorial** dedicated in September 2003 at the National Museum of the Air Force Memorial Gardens near Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHOW FACE

The first week in September 2018 found four out of town members of the Board of Directors in Omaha for the Big Safari Reunion.

(The local authorities had been duly alerted, but no untoward incidents were reported.)



(Photo provided by Moore)

At a gathering in President Spivey's conference room for socializing with other BoD members and several local **Association** members, in this photo, under the ubiquitous clock were:

L-R: Moore, **VP Ricky McMahon, Don Kelly, Bill Ernst, Spivey, Thomas, Jim Maloney**, a stealthy **Errol Hoberman**, and **Val Dugie**.

This would have constituted a quorum had the group chosen to do business, but it was a social occasion and conviviality reigned.

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55TH WING HALL OF FAME AND TALES OF THE 55TH

As has become tradition in recent years, both events were held on the day before the annual Birthday Ball on **Friday, 21 September 2018**, as part of **55th Heritage Week**.

President **Joe Spivey (Hall)** and **Jim Thomas (Tales)** emceed and orchestrated the proceedings.

The venue this year was in the ballroom of the Offutt Patriot Club, a more intimate setting.

The crowd of about 300 active duty troops, retirees, families and friends was welcomed by **55th Wing Vice Commander Colonel Sherri LeVan** to open the festivities.



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55TH WING HALL OF FAME 2018 INDUCTIONS

This event was moderated by **Association President Spivey**.

The ceremony was opened by Hall of Fame members in attendance who rang the **55th Wing Ceremonial Bell** in turn: **Hank Dubuy, Jeff Needham, Michael Cook, Joe Siniscalchi, Mike McFarland** and **Max Moore**.

Both inductees were presented with their plaques by **Colonel LeVan** at the ceremony, and recognized again at the Air Force Ball by **55th Wing Commander Colonel Michael Manion**.

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Colonel James W. Thomas, during many years of service to the ***Fightin' Fifty-Fifth***, made his mark as a leader, setting the example, while on active duty; and in retirement as a contracted instructor pilot, and president of the **55th Wing Association**.



Following a Vietnam tour where he earned the call sign “Strike”, he was assigned to the 343rd SRS. Over three tours in the 55th, Jim was a copilot, aircraft commander, instructor pilot;

Chief Stan-Eval Division; operations officer then commander of the 38th SRS, and the first 55th Operations Group Commander.

As president of the 55th Wing Association for over a decade, Jim was dedicated to “honoring those who have served” and those currently serving the 55th. He initiated the idea of a Wing Heritage Week and anchored it to the *Tales of the 55th* that Jim has produced for thirteen years.

His steadfast efforts sustained the 55th Wing Hall of Fame, unit reunions, and many other events as Jim led the 55th Wing Association in keeping alive the spirit and rich heritage of the *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth*.

Col Thomas’ decades-long contributions and service to the 55th earned his induction into the 55th Wing Hall of Fame.

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Major Richard L. (Rich) Holsinger has a significant and noteworthy legacy of direct, sustained contributions to *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth* success. On active-duty, Rich served with the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing’s (SRW, later 55th Wing) 38th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (SRS, later RS) at Offutt AFB and the 306th Strategic Wing RAF Mildenhall, UK.

Major Holsinger’s service to the 55th Wing spans an illustrious 47+ years. A maintainer at heart, Rich started his USAF career as an enlisted maintenance



technician; eventually, rising to TSgt before his well-earned selection for Officer Training School.

He then spent the remainder of his USAF career assigned to (or directly supporting) the 55th Wing as a navigator, instructor navigator, standardization evaluator, and maintenance officer.

In addition to his active-duty success, Rich’s post-military, contractor support to the 55th Wing is equally impressive. He directly continues to support all aspects of the 55th Wing flying mission. As the 645 Aeronautical Systems Squadron’s (AESS) Director of Product Assurance, Greenville, TX, Rich currently manages requirements definition, acquisition, testing, logistic and sustainment of *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth* aircraft.

Major Holsinger’s significant contributions to the 55th Wing are solid recommendations for the 55th Wing Hall of Fame recognition.

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Hall of Fame group: L-R: Needham, Moore, Dubuy, Thomas, Cook, Holsinger, Siniscalchi McFarland.

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19th EDITION

Immediately after the Hall inductions, Jim Thomas made a rapid segue into the Tales program.

After his initial remarks on Heritage Week, and the purpose and ‘rules of engagement’ of the Tales, he paid tribute to the late **Robb Hoover** who created the original *Tales* 19 years ago and emceed the event for several years.



(Robb is shown at the Tales in 2011)

Thomas then introduced **Shirley Hoover**, Robb’s widow, who is a continuing sponsor of the Tales.

For the opening tale, Thomas narrated the incident of a **55th SRW** RB-47H crew, commanded by **Major Willard Palm**, staging out of RAF Brize-Norton, UK, on 1 July 1960 on their first operational mission, and was shot down by a Soviet fighter in international airspace over the Barents Sea.

Fast forward to the late 1960s when Major Palm’s brother, **Warren**, presented a trophy and plaque to the **55th SRW** in memory of the crew. The award was to be presented annually to reconnaissance crews who distinguished themselves in the line of duty. The **55th Operations Group** now administers and selects each year’s winner for the Bill Palm Memorial Trophy.

For 2018 the combined crew of members of the **38th Recon Sqd** and **97th Intel Sqd**, was chosen for extraordinary performance during April 2018 while serving in the SE Asia area.

SrAmn Caitlin Brasel, a **97th IS** linguist, recounted the details of the Python 71 crew actions on sorties in collecting a wide variety of intelligence that provided immediate warning of enemy threats during and after allied strikes. That led to greater battle space awareness and intelligence to impact key command decisions in the region. Above all else, those three days in mid-April demonstrated the capabilities of the various units to work together and fuse analysis from a variety of sources to be part of one of the most impactful military operations over the past decade.

The entire crew of 27 personnel, commanded by **Capt Mason Gordon**, **38th RS**, was presented with the trophy by Colonel LeVan and **55th Ops Group Commander, Colonel Eric Paulson**.

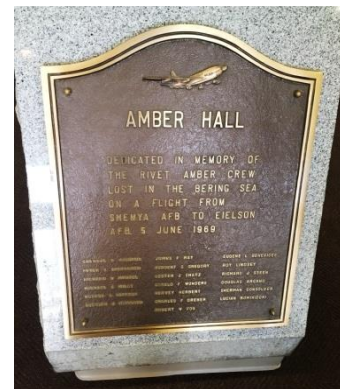
Tale #2 was orated by **LtCol Corey O’Tool**, current **45th RS** commander, concerning a 2 March 2003 mission by a **RC-135 COBRA BALL**, that was intercepted by North Korean MiGs. A first lieutenant EWO back then, in his words, “what is usually routine, except when it is a surprise!!”

Seeing those Red Star insignia close up was more of a thrill than the crew desired, especially since NorKo fighter jocks are not known for their rational behavior. **LtCol Randy Gurchin** commanded the 18 person crew on that date.

Major Daniel House, **35th OSS**, Misawa AB, Japan, related the loss of **RIVET AMBER**, **RC-135D**, tail #137, and the crew commanded by **Major Mitch Michaud**. Enroute from Shemya AFB, AK, to Eielson AFB, AK, on 5 June 1969, the aircraft disappeared without a trace or any communication of trouble.

A building at Eielson was later named Amber Hall to commemorate that event. The dedication plaque was in need of refurbishment and spelling corrections, a project recently undertaken by members of the Big Safari Association (BSA), **55th Wing Association**, and the Freedom Through Vigilance Association.

Numerous diligent individuals (including senior NCOs at three locations) were involved in the coordination and logistics effort to ship an 80 lb. slab from Eielson to an engraving company in San Antonio. When finished, the plaque will be returned to Amber Hall for a rededication ceremony in June 2019, the 50th anniversary of the tragedy.



A facsimile of the plaque was given to the **45th RS** at Offutt for its history display by **Mike Meermans**, president of the BSA.

In keeping with the well established tradition, the Tales concluded with Thomas leading Col LeVan, the speakers and the audience in a toast to

the deployed 55th warriors around the globe defending freedom, and “so we can have more *Tales of the 55th* to relate in the future.



L-R: Col LeVan, SrAmn Brasel, Maj House, LtCol O’Tool
(A photo montage of the Tales is on page 23)

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AIR FORCE BALL 22 SEPTEMBER 2018



Logo by Josh Plueger, 55th Wing Public Affairs.

The Birthday Ball on Saturday, 22 September 2018 at the Century Link Center in Omaha, was hosted by Colonel Michael Manion, 55th Wing Commander, and his wife Shannon.

Affable Dave Webber, Omaha TV personality, emceed for the ninth consecutive year. He served four years in the SAC HQ Elite Guard back in the day before embarking on his true calling.

Guest speaker CMSgt Mark Hurst, the Command Chief of the 552nd Air Control Wing (E-3, Sentry AWACS), Tinker AFB, OK; and a member of the Air Force Tactical Air Control Party.

After dinner and the main program, the Heartland of America Band provided entertainment and dance music well into the evening.

Over 1100 attended, yet another record crowd. Active duty personnel from across Offutt, retirees, friends and families, plus a plethora of local dignitaries to include: **Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts** (he is the only sitting governor to attend the Ball and has done so four years in a row).

Congressman Don Bacon (Neb Dist 2), and his wife **Angie**; USSTRATCOM Commander **General Michael Hyten** and wife **Laura**; **Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders** were there. Nebraska state senators **Bob Krist** (a 55th alum), wife **Peggy**, and **Sue Crawford** and her husband attended, as did 55th Wing Commander’s Wingmen **Cathy Williams** and **Frank Kumor**, his wife **Patricia**, and former 55th Wing Command CMSgt (Ret) **Vicki Swingle**.

The **Association** was well represented by President Spivey, Board members: past president Jim Thomas and wife **Sharon**, Ham Kennedy and wife **Pat**, **Michael Cook** and wife Tina, Max Moore and wife **Carol**.

Hall of Famers Joe Siniscalchi, Hank Dubuy with wife **Sandra**, and Michael McFarland and wife **Pearl**, Rich Holsinger and wife, **Phyllis** were among several **Association** members attending: **John and Sharry Cooper**, **Wes and Deb Kiel**, **Wes and Anna Thibodeaux**, **Mike and Sue Tabler**, **Ben and Katina Ungerman**, **Reggie Stewart** and **Mark Spadaro**. (*Mea culpa to anyone not mentioned..*)

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

Committee co-chairs were **Captain Keith Saylor**, USSTRATCOM Elite Guard, 55th Security Forces Squadron, and **MSgt Paul Erickson**, 55th Contracting Squadron.

Although it is officially the Air Force Ball, this arrangement does ensure, and with positive assurance, a major 55th presence and specific elements in the script honor **Wing** heritage, etc. The 55th Wing Hall of Fame inductees and the 55th Wing Association Award for Excellence presentations were integral parts of the program.

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Please note that **55th Wing Protocol** personnel periodically review 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, or 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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55TH WING ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

President Joe Spivey announced the 2017 winners of the Award at the Ball, while Board member and Awards Chairman Ham Kennedy made the presentations to the outstanding performers.

Then-TSgt **John A. Smith** of the 55th



Contracting Squadron was recognized for his consistently superior performance as Section Chief of the Commodities Flight, and as squadron superintendent and acting First Sergeant. His other accolades included: NCO of the Quarter, NCO Academy Distinguished Graduate, and Federal Employee of the Year for the

State of Nebraska for 2017.

A1C Christopher Puglisi, 55th Maintenance Sqd, an aircraft systems journeyman, demonstrated excellence in a variety of operational deployments.

In addition to his outstanding regular duty performance, he trained over 50 personnel in emergency response capabilities which was among his notable



accomplishments during 2017.

A1C Puglisi was on extended leave and the award was to be presented at a squadron function upon his return. Accepting on his behalf was squadron commander **Major Jeremiah Gottberg.**

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTORY

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Appointed Enlisted Affairs Liaison:

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Pompano Beach, FL. 33069
ElvioPalmeri@yahoo.com

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There were 466 members in good standing as of 31 December 2018, compared with 465 on 15 August 2018.

However, 114 members will be removed from good standing status on 1 April 2019 if dues renewals are not received by that date.

A ‘friendly reminder crusade’ is usually sent to lapsed members after the grace period to encourage them to return to the fold. Many just need that prod to renew, but please be diligent and do not wait for that.

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

Fifty 55th 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 16, plus one member of the RAF.

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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: 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 address noted later in this text to get an update on your membership status.

When in doubt, send money. It will be credited.

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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TREASURER’S REPORT

As of 31 December 2018, the treasury had an account balance (rounded) of \$56, 200.

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.

January is when renewals are due. But, it is never too soon to renew your membership. So, please pay your dues promptly, or early and often.

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Please remember that the Association is a non-profit IRS 501(C) 19 veterans, federal tax exempt organization.

Thus, 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.

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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
* * * * ***

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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**RECRUITING MEMBERS TO
THE ASSOCIATION**

Retaining members, and recruiting new ones, are recurring and never ending priorities. 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 additional dues, 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 often 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 **55th**, but were connected to the unit and/or its history in some way.

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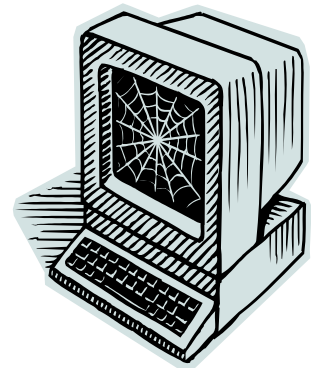
**ASSOCIATION WEB SITE
55wa.org**

Our updated (*see August 2018 newsletter for details*) **55wa.org** web site is operating smoothly and securely. 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 former <http://>

Remember, you can now simply 'search' for the name you're looking for rather than scrolling through long lists. For example: on the TAPS, or dues pages.

You can look at the **55th** 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.

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.

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A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go hell in such a manner that you look forward to the trip.

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HOG HEAVEN TURNS 82!! REUNION PLANNED AT OKINAWA

Legacy of the 82nd

Reconnaissance Squadron

Contributed by Colonel Alan Dayton,

Former Commander 2011 – 2013



The 82d Reconnaissance Squadron reaches a milestone this summer as it turns 82 years old, and a reunion in Okinawa has been set. If you have or have not had the honor of being assigned to the 82nd, this short history is worth your time.

Originally constituted as the 82nd Observation Squadron on 1 June 1937, the squadron flew a variety of light observation aircraft while assigned to Moffett Field and then Hamilton Field in California. While a majority of Army Air Corps units were making airpower history over the skies of Europe in 1942, the re-designated 82nd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron was active throughout the Pacific Theater, seeing action in New Guinea, the New Britain Islands, Luzon and Okinawa.

On 11 January 1945, **Capt William Shomo**, then commander of the 82nd, shot down seven enemy aircraft in the mighty P-51 Mustang while his wingman, **2nd Lt Paul Lipscomb** shot down three. Despite being outnumbered thirteen to two when the fight started, they both escaped without injury. Capt Shomo was awarded the Medal of Honor for "extraordinary gallantry and intrepidity in attacking such a far superior force."

Near the end of World War II, the 82nd was charged with obtaining aerial photographs before and after the bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

The Det 1, 3rd Air Division, forerunner of the 82nd, entered the Cold War in May 1967 at Yokota AB, Japan, then was re-designated as the 82nd Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, after transitioning to its present location at Kadena Air Base in October 1967.

From the latter part of 1967, the 82nd flew the RC-135M models, acquired from Military Airlift Command after modification for ELINT and SIGNIT missions.



Due to the elongated shape of the M model nose cones, the 82nd affectionately took on the nickname “Hogs” and claimed the squadron as “Hog Heaven.”

Under the COMBAT APPLE mission, these aircraft flew grueling sorties averaging nearly 19 hours in duration, and involving long orbits over the Gulf of Tonkin and Laos picking up indications of surface to air missiles and COMINT.

By the end of the Vietnam War, the Hogs of the 82nd had flown over 3,250 missions for nearly 40,000 combat hours providing

MiG and SAM warning, as well as search and rescue assistance. The unit was deactivated in June 1976.

Reactivated once again on 2 October 1991 at Kadena under the 55th Wing, operating first under SAC and then ACC, the squadron was re-designated the 82nd Reconnaissance Squadron.

Since reactivation, the 82nd has provided support for all the RC-135 variants: the RIVET JOINT, COMBAT SENT, COBRA BALL, and the WC-135 CONSTANT PHOENIX.

While focus has shifted from the Cold War and the Vietnam War, the Hogs continue to maintain an incredible pace against our adversaries in the Pacific, often the first to recon and capture the information national leadership uses to make decisions on a global level.

On 1 June 2019, we celebrate 82 years of reconnaissance by an historic unit. A reunion is planned for 13-15 June 2019 at Kadena for all present and former squadron members.



The squadron, currently led by **Lt Col John Isacco**, is planning two days of activities to include a diving, snorkeling, golfing, base/island touring, and culminating at a dinner hosted at Jack’s Place or the Kadena O’Club.

The schedule is still being finalized, so for additional and updated information, check out www.hogheavenreunion.com.

If you ever served in the 82nd, start digging through the couch for loose change, and we hope to see you there.

June 2019...Okinawa...Kadena...Hog Heaven...Serving with a Watchful Eye.

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MAIL ‘N STUFF



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Max,

Just got the **55th Wing Association** newsletter, great, as usual.

Noted that LtGen **C. Norman Wood** had passed.

I was in the 343rd and **55th SRW** (Stan/Eval) from 1975 to 1980. Then, I was reassigned to Defense Intel Agency (DIA), and following that to AF/IN. Norm Wood did a tour as Deputy ACS/I, and I knew him then, and later I was doing Intel support to AFOTEC, and worked for him when he was the ACS/I.

When I first went to DIA, I did all-source analysis on the Soviet doctrine of “*Radioelektronnyya Borba*” which roughly translates to Radioelectronic Combat. I was able to rely on my background flying the various routes from Kadena, Eielson, Athena, and Mildenhall--which helped immensely.

At AF/IN, I ended up working for then-Colonel Jim Clapper, now the former DNI; and later for

then-Major General Norm Wood. We had 4-5 former **55th** guys in AF/IN working various efforts.

I live in Fairfax, and retired from DIA in 1999. I attended the **55th SRW** reunion here a number of years ago, and fondly remember the deployments and missions during the Cold War.

Is there a contact for in the Northern Virginia area? If so, would like to re-engage.

V/R, John R. Clark, Fairfax, VA.

(From an e-mail 31 August 2018)

(He was put in touch with Ricky Mac)

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Max,

A major anniversary is approaching: 13 January 2019 will be the 50th anniversary of the **final flight** of the original Rivet Ball (59-1491, aka Nancy Rae, Wanda Belle) at Shemya AB, AK.

As the last pilot to fly the Ball, thirty minutes past midnight on 13 January 1969, is forever etched into my memory.

For all the details of the Ball and her sister ship, Rivet Amber, I'll refer (readers) to a fantastic web site by my friend **King Hawes**: www.rc135.com; plan to spend a batch of time there ...a wealth of history.

Recovery efforts salvaged number 4 engine, the



only one not buried in the dirt; the air refueling receptacle area, and 50,000+ pounds of electronic gear. The

majority of the airframe now rests in the Million Dollar Dump on Shemya.

I came away with a chunk of aircraft skin which I attached to eighteen plaques, one for each crew member aboard.

The story of my plaque is on my blog: <https://johnachor.wordpress.com/>

If anyone can identify the artist who drew the cartoon (bottom of web site page) of the horse going off a cliff (caption: "*Whoa!!! You SoB! Whoa!*"), I would like to give them credit.

A story combining computer flight simulators and the real Ball is on my web site at: <http://johnachor.com/a-ball.html>.

An aside, brought to my attention after the accident: my Air Force serial number was: FR 3048**491** and the aircraft tail number was 59-**1491** — coincidence, luck, fate, kismet, or whatever you want to make of it.

Though some of the crew has passed, (to the best of my knowledge, four are no longer with us) we're fortunate that most survived the past half-century.

So, here's to the guys who followed me over the cliff (I was driving, but they didn't have a choice): I hope your lives have been full, fulfilling and filled with everything that gives you joy.

Along with this email, I'm including a three images and a poem of mine in the ZIP file (55-RB.zip).

Thanks and Cheers,
John Achor, Elkhorn, NE.

(From an e-mail 1 September 2018.)

* * * * *

Hi, Max!

Another small world moment that I thought (*our members*) would enjoy.

Jeff and I were in Bowie, MD, for a AAA baseball game and had some time to kill before the game. Both being geeks, we decided to check out the National Capitol Radio and Television Museum.

As we were chatting with the tour guide, he asked our backgrounds to get an idea what our level of knowledge might be. Jeff told him we were both retired Air Force electronic warfare officers. The tour guide, **Rich Colarco**, laughed and said he was also a retired EWO and had flown both the B-52 and RC-135.

Of course, we played the 'who knows who' game and it came out that he was not only an RC raven, he also flew the COMBAT SENT in the late 1970s!

We figured only in a geeky radio museum would you find a critical mass of SENT Ravens (Jeff and I both having time on the SENT).

Anyway, Rich promised to join the **Association** and is very happy to reconnect with the **55th** recon world again.

Picture at right: Jeff, me, Rich.

Cheers!
Trish Seiwil,
Fairfax, VA.

(From an e-mail 11 September 2018)

* * * * *

Hello **Max:**

By now the **Association** should have received my application for membership again. I mailed it 10/31/2018. My membership had lapsed years ago, as life got complicated, so I did not renew. Anyway, I'm back.

A **55th** buddy and I are trying to get some kind of reunion "celebrating" our 50+ years since we were in the Air Force, and 50 years since we had a tour in Okinawa in 1969. So far, there are four of us. I am trying to locate and contact others.

If the **55th** is planning a reunion in 2019, that would be ideal time for us to visit Offutt AFB/Omaha.

You should get an application from **Anthony Longo.** (He did join.)

I was an ASN-53 technician and Tony was a radio tech. I live in NY and Tony in Connecticut. We have been meeting for many years, twice a year around Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Roy Hershey Lewis, Wappingers Falls, NY
USAF 1966-1970 (From an e-mail 11 Nov 2018)

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Max:

While visiting the National Museum of USAF, 27 December with my son-in-law, and grandson, the Museum photographer overheard me talking about the RB-47H (#4299) and he talked with us.

When he found out I had flown the airplane displayed in the Museum's Cold War Annex, he



asked if he could take pictures of me with the aircraft behind me.

He told me later that it would appear on the Museum's site on Facebook.



"Special thanks to LtCol USAF (Ret) **Jack Kovacs** for visiting the museum this week! He has stick time as a co-pilot in the RB-47H Stratojet, and served 26 years in the USAF. Check out this link for info on the aircraft: <http://bit.ly/2DgNFnl>".

Jack Kovacs, Fairborn, OH.
(From an e-mail 28 December 2018)

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THIS ITEM IS FOLLOW ON TO THE OFFUTT GRAVE ARTICLE IN AUGUST 2018 ISSUE OF VO

Contributed by **Ken Bauer**

I think it was **Mike Hoskins** and I who realized that the Offutt Air Show for 2018 was going to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of **Lt Jarvis Offutt** joining Royal Air Force (RAF) 56 Squadron and his death. The Offutt Airshow was Saturday, 11 August and Sunday, 12 August 2018. Lt Jarvis Offutt joined RAF 56 Squadron on 12 August 1918 and died 13 August 1918.

With a lot of effective coordination between **55th Wing**, RAF Force Commander, RAF 56 Sqd, Joe Spivey, **55 Wing Association** president; the Offutt family, Hoskins, **RAF Master Aircrew (MAcr) Keith "Nutty" Wing**, and others running the Air Show, we didn't miss honoring Lt Jarvis Offutt, his family, our **Wing** and RAF 56 Squadron

The **55th Wing Association**, **55th Wing** Public Affairs and **55th Wing** Protocol were involved, and there was thought that this would make the news in a positive way. Without Nutty's actions and some dedicated effort from the **55 Wing Association**, the opportunity would have been missed

When it all came together, we had a display canopy for Lt Offutt at the Air Show manned by us

and Spivey; and a flag folding ceremony with both the British and American flags done by the **55th Wing Honor Guard**.



For about fifteen minutes 40,000 people remained silent while watching the event.

At right: L-R: Hoskins, Bauer, and Spivey.

(Photo by Moore)

The ramp temperature was so hot that the wax on the RAF men's shoes melted, but they were not swayed. One of the RAF men's shoes was so hot that the glue holding the sole let go, but that NCO continued unabated to present his flag to the Offutt family.

Colonel Michael Manion, **55th Wing** Commander, never missed a beat presenting the American flag to the Offutt family, and never showing any impact of the heat that day.

The Offutt family was very impressed that Lt Offutt's grave had been "Made Proper" earlier in 2018.

Those participating in the flag folding ceremony were:

RAF Members:

Sqd Ldr David C Hockley, MBA MSc RAF OC AES TEF, 56 Squadron

MAcr Keith Wing, 56 Sqd AES, TEF Flight

MAcr Tim Mack, HQ 1 Group, ISTAR FHQ

Sgt Richard Schofield, 56 Sqd AES, TEF Flight

USAF Members:

Col Mike Manion, Commander, **55th Wing**

Col Sherri LeVan, Vice Commander, **55th Wing**

SMSgt Brian Kruszelnicki, Command Chief, **55th Wing**

Offutt Family Members:

Mr. Dave Offutt, nephew of Lt Jarvis Offutt (*overcome by heat stress was in Emergency Room*)

Mrs. Jane Offutt, wife of Dave Offutt (*in ER with her husband, watched event over cell phone face time,*)

Mr. John Offutt, son of David Offutt, **Mrs. Janelle Rife** (Dave Offutt's Daughter, stood in for Mr. Dave Offutt)

On the following day, Monday, 13 August, a small group met at Lt Jarvis Offutt's grave at the

Omaha cemetery at 1430. Attendees and three Omaha TV stations stood by and filmed as Col Manion and his senior staff were once again joined by members of RAF to honor Lt Jarvis Offutt. **Chaplin Lt Col James Parrish** gave the invocation, following, Bauer gave a reading.

Then Colonel Manion and Sqd Ldr Hockley made remarks and laid wreaths from the **55th Wing** and RAF 56 Squadron.



Photo by Bauer

After the official party departed, a few others remained and paid respects with a final toast to Lt Jarvis Offutt in proper style.

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ANNIVERSARY EVENT OF COBRA BALL SAR MISSION FOR NAVY P-3 DITCHING

Contributed by Al Feldkamp and Bo Marlin

An RC-135 Cobra Ball aircrew played a major role in a reunion for celebration of life for survivors of a Navy P-3 ditching. It was an emotional and wonderful event, the 40th anniversary held at the Ft Belvoir, VA, Officers Club on 26 and 27 October 2018.

The reunion between the P-3 survivors and the Search and Rescue (SAR) teams consisting of a sister P-3 from Adak, AK, a US Coast Guard HC-130 from Kodiak, AK, and the Cobra Ball RC-135 from Shemya AFB, AK, was a truly special event.

The nine remaining survivors of a US Navy P-3 aircraft that ditched in the North Pacific on 26 October 1978 celebrated with the SAR team.

Present for the event were the P-3 crew (five died in the accident or in the water), the Cobra Ball (arcft 663) TC **Al Feldkamp** and the SC/MT **Hank Lees**; four members of the USCG C-130 crew; and three members of another P-3 from Adak.

This was the fourth time we met the survivors. First, we found them approximately 250 NM west of Shemya in the water with a 40kt wind, 20 foot seas and water temp of 34 degrees; then again when they visited us for celebration of life at Eielson AFB, AK, on 3-5 April 1979, and a third time in Las Vegas, NV, on 26 October 2004 (26th Anniversary).

Andy Jampoler wrote a book (2003) about the incident named *Adak, the Rescue of AF 586*. There is also a Japanese movie (2004) about the ditching and rescue.

The aircraft ditched 200 miles west of Shemya due to an engine fire and runaway prop. The Cobra Ball aircraft, which was on an operational mission off of Kamchatka, was the first to find the downed airmen.

The other 24th SRS members of the Cobra Ball crew on the night of the rescue were **Cliff Carter**, AC, **Bob Rivas**, CP, **Bruce Savaglio**, N1, **Gordie Alder**, N2, **Rick Stotts**, ATS, **Ron Hood**, R4, **Bruce Carson**, IR4, **Greg Cummins**, ATS, **Bud Irons**, IATS, **Bob Carlson**, ATS, **Tom Youngblood**, PT, **Dennis Grundhauser**, ET. The Cobra Ball was also represented at the reunion dinners by special guest **Bo Marlin** (a former 45th SRS commander) and wife **Ann**.

Feldkamp offered words for **Bruce Carson**, the only member of the Ball rescue crew who had passed away. Of note, **Larry Mitchell** was the 24th SRS Sqd/CC, and **John Dale** was the 6th SW Wing/CC.

Also dinning at the Ft Belvoir O'Club that evening, **Wolfgang Samuel** showed up to see what all the commotion was about.

Bo Marlin added: It was truly an honor and privilege for Ann and me to attend and celebrate the 40th anniversary with the P-3 survivors and SAR crews. The incident was a little known aspect of the Cobra Ball history that we only learned of a few days prior to the event.

We, like all who attended, are very much looking forward to the 50th anniversary celebration, God willing.

(From a series of e-mails November 2018)

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Hello again, Max.

I wanted to follow up on the P-3 story.

In 2003, the P-3 survivors presented me with a glass eagle statue which is about foot tall. On it is written, "To Scone 92 (our call sign) Thank you for giving us life!"

At the *Tales of the 55th* in December 2003, I presented the statue to the commander of the 45th RS. I just figured that it and the book *Adak* about the rescue were long gone as things like this often disappear. But, I was amazed when I called LtCol Corey O'Tool (current 45th commander) and he said it was in the 45th's heritage room. I was very pleased and proceeded to tell him the story behind the statue. He had no idea.

Apparently the book *Adak* has disappeared, which is sad since it was signed by the survivors. But, at least the statue is with the 55th which is glad to know. Good on the 45th!!

Best to all for a great 2019!

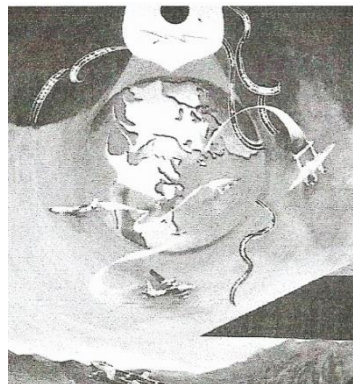
Al Feldkamp, Monument, CO

(From an e-mail 26 December 2018)

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FIGHTIN' FIFTY-FIFTH MURAL REDUX

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



Unfortunately, the article on the gone missing mural in the August 2018 issue of *Videmus Omnia*, did not result in any definitive information on its location. One unsubstantiated report has it somewhere in Saudi Arabia.

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55th WING'S UK MISSION TO RELOCATE

The **55th Wing's** 95th Reconnaissance Squadron, and the USAF 488th Intelligence Squadron will relocate the RC-135 Rivet Joint mission from RAF Mildenhall to RAF Fairford as part of the European Infrastructure Consolidation.

Approximately 530 military personnel and 740 family members will move to the areas around RAF Fairford.

The relocation enables US Air Forces Europe and US Air Forces Africa to reduce excess capacity without any loss of operational capabilities.

The move is expected to begin in 2023 and be complete by 2024. All RC-135s are permanently assigned to the **55th Wing**, Air Combat Command, Offutt Air Force Base, NE. They will use RAF Fairford as a Forward Operating Location and will deploy as required from the US as they currently do.

The 95th RS and 488th IS provide intelligence collection, analysis and dissemination capabilities.

(Article abbreviated and edited from Offutt AFB "Air Pulse" newspaper, 29 November 2018)

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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 8. We encourage and welcome any input.

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*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.)

Also welcome would be any suggestions on

how to improve these issues to better inform the membership, so that they do not become stale, which is this editor's biggest concern.

What would you like to see or read more about,..... or less of? Just lemme know.

Thanks, and Videmus Omnia, Max.

(Graphic by Patricia Gros, friend of the Association.) (Ed. Note: The image is dated, but so am I; however, I have long ago upgraded to a flat screen monitor.)

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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 55th spirit.

For information on **55th 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.

Ricky is considering holding a wine tasting gathering at his family vineyard, or at another operational vineyard in the Piedmont area of Virginia, this spring or summer.

To gauge interest in such an event, please contact him with one of the methods above so he can learn if it is worthwhile, then details can be planned.

His place is named *Teaghlaigh Vineyard* located at 22344 Clark's Mountain Road, Rapidan, VA. "*Teaghlaigh*" is Irish Gaelic for "family", and pronounced Tay-Luh, beghorah, laddies and lassies.

In addition, if you know of any former *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth'er* in the National Capitol Region who is **not currently** receiving **55th 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.

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SAN ANTONIO LUNCH BUNCH

This alumni 'chapter' is active. As **Charlie McBride** and **Dave Frutchey** report, they gather the **second** Thursday each month, 1200 hours, and at TGI Fridays, McCullough and Loop 410.

Typically, 8-12 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 Frutchey at dfrutchey@att.net. Better yet, just show up.

This photo contributed by McBride was taken at the December 2018 lunch.



L-R: Bruce Barker, Ron Nickerson, Howard Ham, Jim Hilliard, Bill White, Todd Daniel, Charles McBride, Ned Gates.

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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.

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EC-135 RESTORATION UPDATE

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

Fund raising is still slow, but growing at just over \$98,000. 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 will eventually be displayed (*without wings and engines*) in the main museum viewing area; anticipated 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. A cadre of dedicated volunteers has put in over 21,000 hours since 2015.



A group of restoration volunteers pose during their 'spare' time.

Anyone and everyone who has toured the aircraft in recent times, including during the Airborne Command and Control Association (ACCA) reunion last September, could readily see the amazing progress that has been made.

EC-135C restoration at the SAC Museum update is as of 24 December 2018. This update was sent on Christmas Eve to show the gift the Museum volunteers have given throughout 2018, and covers the period from 1 August 2018 through 18 December 2018.

Since the ACCA reunion, there have been many days that the aircraft was not available because the restoration hanger was being rented for large events. It is surprising the amount of progress that was made by the volunteers in the limited time the aircraft was available.

There has been significant progress inside the aircraft. Among other work, the Data Operators' consoles and LF/VLF controls in compartment 3 have been restored and reinstalled. The Mux rack and the switchboard in compartment 2 have been restored and reinstalled.

Chuck Karrick works on said rack.

The reinstallation of the large equipment rack on the right side in compartment 2 was a major milestone. The volunteers have been filling the large rack with equipment, much of which was previously restored and wrapped for protection pending reinstallation of the rack.

Douglass Interior Products of Bellevue, WA, (ZIP code 98005 vice 68005 in Nebraska, true.) has donated carpet for the inside of the aircraft. The volunteers were preparing to lay that carpet.

Volunteers continued to work on corrosion and equipment outside the aircraft. The aircraft cannot be primed and painted until all surfaces are cleaned and dust free.

The many pictures showing the project's progress are posted to the following Facebook sites: SAC ACC (Strategic Air Command–Airborne Command and Control)

4 ACCS PACCS, LOOKING GLASS (SAC ABNCP) AND PACCS, FANS OF STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND SAC, and SAC VETERANS

(Updated material and photos provided by **Hank Carriger**, Volunteer Coordinator, now relocated to Boerne, TX. From e-mail 24 December 2018. Numbers data provided by **Deb Hermann**, SAC Museum Development, Marketing, and Communications Director)

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TAPS



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FLECKTEN, Thomas D., 74, 17 December 2018, Bellevue, NE; wife, **Beverly**. An EC-135 pilot in the 2nd ACCS at Offutt AFB, NE, in the late 1970s. Tom later commanded the unit.

GOEDEN, Patricia A., 81, 26 September 2018, Omaha, NE. Pat was the widow of **Sam**, a long time 55th navigator, who died in an auto accident 4 January 2018. In that unfortunate hit-and-run, she suffered multiple severe injuries, and was in treatment, recovery and rehab for over eight months.

HARRISON, TOMMY, 83, 9 December 2018, Apopka, FL; married to **Marty** for 60 years. In the 55th during the 1970s, Tommy was chief of Plans, commanded the Field Maintenance Sqd, then went to SAC HQ. In retirement he devoted years in leading the Air Force Association as local chapter, then state president, and as a regional and national director.

MCKENZIE, Sally A., 82, 12 November 2018, Springfield, NE. An Omaha native, she was the widow of **Jerry**, an EWO in RCs with the 55th SRW at Offutt in the 1970s. He passed in December 2010. They operated a kennel business boarding dogs and horses for over 40 years.

PRISLUSKY, Patricia M., 82, 30 November 2018, Gahanna, OH. Pat was the widow of **Vic**, husband of 27 years. A dedicated Air Force wife

and devoted to her family. Vic was a long time **55th SRW** pilot in RBs at Forbes in the 1960s, then in RCs at Yokota AB, Japan, Kadena AB, Okinawa, and Offutt. He passed in 1982.

REEVES, Don, 83, 3 December 2018, Ensenada, CA. He was in the original cadre of crewmembers as a navigator in RC-135Ds in the 6th Strat Recon Wing at Eielson AFB, AK, 1966-69. Don then went to the **55th SRW** at Offutt in RC-135Cs. He later was at SAC HQ in Plans.

SJOLUND, David, C., 83, 13 September 2018, Gulfport, FL; wife, **Carol**. A Connecticut native, Dave was an RB-47 EWO in the **55th SRW** at Forbes AFB, KS, in the 1960s, and served in Thailand during the Vietnam War. After retiring from 21 years in the Air Force, he had a successful career in electronic countermeasures with Northrop, Litton and Hughes for many years.

SPRING, Wayne, 80, 8 November 2018, Las Vegas, NV; wife of 56 years, **Patricia**. An EWO in RB-47s at Forbes and in RCs at Offutt, Wayne was in the **55th** for three tours from September 1963 to June 1983, separated by going to Eielson from 1973 to 1976 and a remote tour to Shemya in 1978. After retiring from the Air Force he was a system analyst for a defense contractor for several years.

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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.

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 **55th** - 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.

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TAPS ON THE ASSN WEB SITE

The **TAPS** section has a listing for access to the names and dates of those in the **55th** 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.

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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.

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 **55** new bricks have been added.

Any new brick orders can 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.

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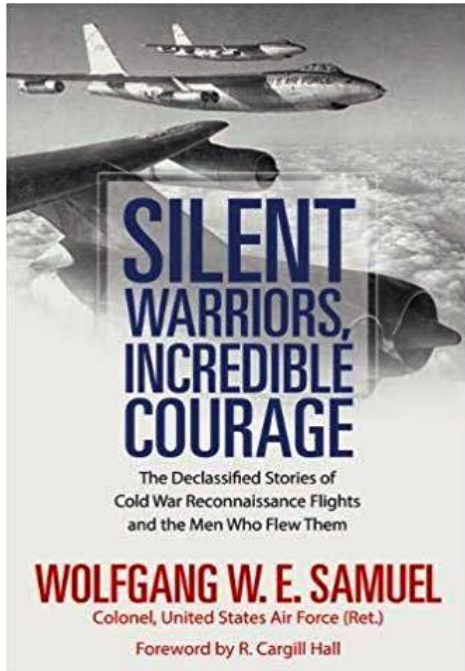
Anyone in the Dayton area who would like to volunteer to help Jack Kovacs and Larry LaFlair with their diligent, periodic efforts to maintain the clean appearance of the Memorial grounds, please contact Jack at j1a2c3k@aol.com to coordinate and learn what work it entails. They are advancing in senior 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: want-to, sweeping, weed pulling, stooping, bending, elbow grease.

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WOLF SAMUEL'S NEWEST BOOK



Due out in March 2019, the book can be preordered via www.amazon.com: Books. Just type in the title and make your order.

Those are RB-47E/K models on the cover and the text hits on the early strategic reconnaissance missions, including over flights of Soviet territory and other unfriendly areas.

Readers can find all of Wolf's books, as well as those of other famed 55th alumni authors, on the **Association** web page, BX section.

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The following are quotes reportedly from efficiency reports, military or corporate. Not likely to get one promoted or a raise.

"A gross ingnoramus-144 times worse."

"He would argue with a signpost."

"It takes this person two hours to watch '60 Minutes'."

"Out of his depth in a parking lot puddle."

ASSOCIATION BX

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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, 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: Mother's Day, 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.

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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.

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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 55th Wing Association, and Bill will promptly respond to your order.

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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

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55TH FASHION PINS

The pins continue to be sold to Association members all over the country. They are particularly evident at 55th 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.

(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 55th Commander’s Wingmen, awarded the coveted leather flight jacket to recognize their superior and continued community support to the 55th Wing.

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WHO SHOT WHAT

Graphics from Clip Art, and organization and public web sites. Photos not previously attributed: Spy V, 55th pin by Moore; Hall, Tales, Ball, Award for Excellence by Moore and 55th Wing Public Affairs. Amber Hall plaque from Spivey; 55th mural from George Back.

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USE OF BOLD FACE TYPE IN TEXTS

Readers may have wondered from time to time, why words or phrases are in bold face type and others are not. Of course you have. Maybe not.

Emphasis is one reason to draw extra attention to what is written, *Hello!* (As are italics.)

With proper names, as a general, but not an inviolate rule, when a name is used for the first time in this newsletter, it is in bold face. After that, generally not. This is a fairly standard procedure for many commercial publications. Now you know, again.

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2018 TALES MONTAGE

Crew Python 71 is presented the Palm Trophy by Colonels Paulsen and LeVan (at rear).



Thomas moderates



SrAmn Brasel concentrates



LtCol O'Tool relates



Major House narrates



Videmus Omnia



55th Wing Association, Inc.

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 only joining after 1 Oct** are extended to 31 Dec of following year(s)

** Note – Dues expiration date – 31 December of paid up year

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

