

Videmus Omnia

55th WING

ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The calendar's first quarter of 2019 is squarely in our rearview mirror requiring a meditative look back on our **Association's** many accomplishments in just a few months this year. Notably, most were related to our recent **Omaha Reunion/Recon Rendezvous**, 4-6 April!



Little did we know during the planning stages that our promised "Road to Omaha" would be plagued by a **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth** flood of historic proportions! Despite Noah-like after-effects from flood damage and corresponding limited

Offutt access, timely workarounds allowed us to retain most planned activities with limited schedule impact. Lingering winter on Thursday precluded the reunion's golf outing and our Cloisters on the Platte visit was moved to morning vice afternoon (sincere apologies to those who wanted to go, but missed it due to the change).

Flood recovery activities necessitated relocating the USSTRATCOM, **55th Wing** and Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) briefs to the La Vista Convention Center—our "Base of Operations". No one missed a beat with these unpredictable adjustments.

To those directly affected **Colonel Ann Marie Anthony** (USSTRAT), **Colonel Sherri LeVan** (**55th Wing**) and **Dr. Emily Streetman** (DPAA) we thank you for personifying "Flexibility is the Key to Airpower".

However, as we experienced with EVERY scheduled Rendezvous outdoors event, "The Sun Never Sets on the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth**"—shining brightly at each one—despite initial windy or overcast conditions. What a blessing!

Most importantly, friendships renewed, new ones began, alliances solidified, comrades embraced and memories flowed. These were the true litmus tests for our extended days together; and from all accounts, fun was had by all.

As the 160+ attendees learned (repeatedly), our theme was "Honoring Those Who Served and Serving Those Who Do." We collectively did this in spades!

Following the Friday morning briefings discussed above, your **Association** was honored in the afternoon by **Papillion Mayor Dave Black**, **NE State Senator John Arch, Sarpy County Commissioner Don Kelly** (one of our own!) and **Congressman Don Bacon** (one of "ours", as well!).

Along with a local civic band and a VFW color guard, that ceremony included Papillion, Sarpy County and State of Nebraska proclamations acclaiming the **Association**, our affiliation with the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth** and meaningfulness to their local communities.

That beautiful Friday afternoon was topped off with a "Roll Call" by the flood-displaced 343rd RS Ravens from "the Hoover". Cheers, **Shirley!**



The Friday evening reception included the **55th Wing** and Operations Group Commanders, **Colonel Michael “Gravy” Manion** (who picked the winning door prize ticket for the night) and **Colonel Eric “EP” Paulson**. They truly, honored our veterans, spouses and families: Past, Present and Future.

Saturday proved to be no exception to carrying our reunion’s theme. In one of the Veterans Administration’s newest facilities, Omaha National Cemetery (ONC), your **Association** contributed, presented and dedicated a permanent monument recognizing our **Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth** commitment to national service, “Honoring Those Who Served and Serving Those Who Do”—while challenging future **55th Wing** members.

Many thanks to Narrator **Rob McCartney** (KETV); ONC Director, **Cindy Van Bibber**; Col Manion, and Congressman Bacon for their dedicatory references (and bell ringing!) to our Past, Present and Future generations.

Following an excellent lunch at Round-the-Bend (celebrated for its “Home of the Testicle Festival”), we reconvened at the SAC and Aerospace Museum where the **Association** donated a beautiful black marble bench in honor of the **Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth**, which was dedicated near one of the **Wing’s** former EC-135s currently under restoration. We trust the bench will always retain a place of honor near that historic aircraft!



Saturday was capped by a wonderful dinner regaled by guest speaker, **Major General John Rauch** (another **55th** “brother”) and Congressman Bacon who read on 1 April, a Congressional Record entry made on the floor of Congress honoring the **Association** and our bond with the **55th Wing** active-duty component.

As one final tribute to our Past, Present and Future theme, I was honored to present Colonel Sherri LeVan a framed/matted print of a **45th RS COBRA BALL** which was enjoined by a North Korean fighter/interceptor.



Our presentation was even more poignant in light of the previous flood threat to many cherished items in the **Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth** historical annals.

Now, we face the future. At a soon-to-be determined time, we will reconvene in less than two years at Tucson. We will be hosted by the **55th Wing’s** Electronic Combat Group (ECG) which flies the COMPASS CALL EC-130 aircraft from Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. It will certainly be warmer than Omaha—in any season—and (without a doubt) less vulnerable to a deluge. I look forward to seeing you there!

Until then, we still have more on our 2019 plate, and the **Association** will need your support along the way: a new wing commander and vice, Memorial Day ceremonies on-base and at the ONC, our Hall of Fame nomination process and “**Tales of the 55th**” compilations.

Like the sun, which never sets on us, neither does our workload when facing a dedicated commitment to “Honoring Those Who Served and Serving Those Who Do”.

THANK YOU for that commitment!

Videmus Omnia, Spy V.

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REUNION RECAP PREMBLE

Other than the obvious five “Bs”, what do **Bells, Bouquets, Bricks, Ball** and **Booze** have in common? Answer: The **55th Wing Association’s** 2019 Reunion/Recon Rendezvous! Simply put, event coordinators carried the theme of Past, Present and Future far beyond our ceremonial activities into Recycling/Reuse domains.

We were pleased to have the **Association's Ceremonial Bell** (often with appropriate rings!) making an unprecedented number of appearances in such a short time: Sarpy County Veterans Memorial, membership meeting, reception, ONC Ceremony, SAC Museum bench dedication and dinner. Recycling “to the max”.

Each ceremonial wreath (**Bouquet**) also served multiple uses. The Papillion staff moved our Sarpy County Vets podium wreath and attached it to the city's “Blue Star Memorial” plaque as a tribute to all veterans.

Association members moved the ONC dais wreath to the **55th Wing** monument's down-the-hill location where it remained for all the cemetery visitors to enjoy.



The third wreath (originally with the SAC Museum) had the most afterlife—moving from the Museum to the **speakers' floor** at the reunion dinner, then relocating to the Offutt AFB cemetery gate.



Our commemorative **COBRA BALL** “gift” to the **55th Wing**, had several lives as well. The painting was originally commissioned for 45th RS members; however, their Commander, **LtCol Corey O'Tool**, gave the **Association** print “#55”, to recognize our mutual organizational history. It was an honor to “regift” this Ball litho to the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth**.

Commemorative Wooden Reunion **Bricks** were available for purchase (still are!) throughout the reunion from our BX (yep, add another “**B**”) supply at the registration desk. Not to divulge the **Association's** “resources”, but the bricks we “recycled” from the former Martin Bomber building—living a new life as alumni mementos.

Finally, **Booze!** Kudos to the Kennedys. the Feldkamps and Ricky McMahon for running an

outstanding logistics line to the Hospitality Suite. Their “stocking” exuberance, however, became a reward for displaced/supporting ops squadrons recovering from this year's OAFB flood effects.

Literally, hundreds of dollars of excess reunion “hooch” were equitably distributed to the 38th RS, 45th RS, 338th CTS and 343rd RS; gratefully applauding the **Association's** “bottle” (yep, still one more “**B**”) donations. Another **Booze** recycle was subtle in ways many never knew.

The daily drawing for bottles of Commemorative Jack Daniels started a **55th Wing** affiliation first offered for sale at the BIG SAFARI Omaha Reunion last fall. The bottles were unique and we decided to recently buy and raffle off three at the 2019 Rendezvous. Each of the trio passed one-more-round to a lucky **Association** winner.

Indeed, these Reunion Recycles ensured all things old, are new again--“gifts that just keep on giving”—Past, Present and Future! **Spy V.**

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OMAHA/OFFUTT REUNION APRIL 2019 RECAP

The **55th Wing Association** held its 33rd reunion 4-6 April 2019 at Omaha/Offutt. The Garden Marriot was billeting and registration HQ, and most events were held in the adjacent LaVista Convention Center/Embassy Suites.

Deemed a success by all who attended, there were over 160 **55th** alumni, family and friends. This is noteworthy in that it was more than double the Tampa reunion, and exceeded the average of the last five gatherings.

The agenda was different from previous reunions held in the area with a number of ceremonies, social events and generous hospitality hours in what became known as Klub Kennedy (*explanation to come*).



President Joe Spivey's leadership and his stalwart committee ensured the events ran smoothly and with dignity. They dealt with changes to the schedule due to after-flood conditions at Offutt (no base tour), conflicts, and a weather cancellation of the golf outing. Other than the first day, which was damp and chilly, the rest of days were nearly perfect for the outside activities.

There were also a few pleasant surprises during the festivities to the delight of the attendees.

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The reunion officially got underway with the 3 April Board of Directors meeting at the Embassy Suites in the late afternoon. Attending were President Joe Spivey, Vice President Ricky McMahon, **Treasurer Michael Cook, Jim Thomas, Jim Maloney, Val Dugie, Mo Krishna, Don Kelly, Paul Jeanes, Ham Kennedy, Fox Censullo, George Ross, Colonel David Priesman and Max Moore.** Several topics were discussed, recommendations made, and actions taken during the two+ hour session.

The minutes of that meeting are posted on the **Association** web site.



The Board of Directors at work.

Counterclockwise from lower right: **Pres Spivey, Ross, Maloney, McMahon, Krishna, Jeanes, Cook, Priesman, Thomas, Censullo and Kelly** (back to camera). Attending but not in photo: **Dugie, Kennedy, Moore** who took the photo.

Most of the directors adjourned to the Nines restaurant for dinner where they were joined by **Bill Ernst, Helen Moses, Pat Kennedy, Peg Maloney,** and early reunion arrivals **Patty and Gary Smith and Doug and Lynn Barrett.**

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Thursday, 4 April, began with the registration of attendees as they arrived during the day.

The bulk of the day was spent registering arrivals, attendees gathering in the hospitality rooms and greeting one another with conviviality.



At the registration desk: L-R: Ham and Pat Kennedy, Arlene Spivey, Cheryl and Dennis Haun

Pat and Ham Kennedy did the awesome double-duty by being in charge of registration AND the hospitality rooms. The latter being so popular and so well staffed that is why the appellation of Klub Kennedy came to be.

The first tour was rescheduled for 0900 due to a conflict at the venue, *The Cloisters on the Platte*, a 931 acre, est. \$1.8 billion religious retreat featuring the 14 Stages of the Cross in life-size statues.



L-R: In front: Patty Smith and Peg Maloney. Back line: Moore, George Ross, Carol Moore, Kate Ostdiek, Denny and Cheryl Haun (partly hidden), Val Dugie and Gary Smith.

Just ten folks made the tour due to the change, but they were suitably impressed with the walking and audio display. The gray, misty weather did not dampen the spirits of this hardy group.

The gift shop offered some respite and refreshments.

Many of the reunion-ites ventured out in groups to dine at several of Omaha's finest restaurants before returning to more Klub Kennedy activity to windup the evening.

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Friday morning was filled with briefings in a large room at Embassy. **John Cooper** moderated the proceedings and opened with a video showing the history of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* from WWII to the present.

Then Colonel Ann Marie Anthony gave a presentation on the US Strategic Command's worldwide mission, organizational structure, and the progress of the new \$1.3B, state of the art HQ building nearing completion on Offutt.

Moving into that structure is expected to take place late fall or by the end of the year. She noted that "Peace is Our Profession" is a motto carried over from the days of Strategic Air Command.

Once that move of STRATCOM personnel occurs, the grand plan is for the **General Curtis E. LeMay, Bldg 500**, to be extensively renovated to become the **55th Wing headquarters**.

Estimated time, two to three years.

Up next was Colonel Sherri LeVan, **55thWing**

Vice Commander, giving the wing's unit mission briefing, highlighting the varied responsibilities of the **Wing** from strategic reconnaissance of hostile nations to the continued SW Asia effort that has been unabated since 1991, the longest tenure of any military unit in the 'desert'.



The **55th** is the largest and most operationally tasked unit in Air Combat Command, and second largest in the Air Force.

Winding up the session was a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Lab (DPAA) presentation by Dr. Emily Streetman. She gave details on the agency's charter for four laboratories in the US to ID as many remains as possible from all conflicts dating from WWII.

Her main concentration, as an example of the Offutt lab's work, was the project for the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor.

Association member **Joe Shanley** was responsible for suggesting this briefing be scheduled.

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Then, two busloads of attendees motored to the Papillion Shadow Lake HyVee store for a relaxing lunch.

Next stop was the Sarpy Country Veterans Park in

Papillion, an impressive display of pylons with names of those veterans of any service who served from the area, built in 2016.



Welcoming the group was Mayor David Black, who paid homage to the **55th** veterans attending and the **55th Wing Association**. Pres Spivey was featured and presented a red, white and blue wreath to the park on behalf of the **Association**. Also speaking were Don Kelly, Chairman of the Sarpy Country Board of Commissioners (and an **Association** BoD member); Nebraska State Senator John Arch; **Laura Schwartz**, Executive Director, Papillion Community Foundation (caretakers for the memorial site); and Papillion City Councilman **Steve Engberg**. The latter is credited with being at the forefront of originating the idea, the planning for, and establishing the park to honor US service veterans from Sarpy County.

Keynote address was by Brigadier General (Ret)/Congressman (NE-2) Don Bacon, (a former **55th Wing** commander and an **Association** member of long standing).

It can be accurately reported that those who attended were suitably impressed with the venue and the ceremonies.

Returning to the Embassy for a briefing by **Mike (Coach) Hoskins** on the impact of the



flooding at Offutt, specifically on Wing HQ building and Bldg 497, home of the 343rd Recon Sqd. (RS) He detailed the efforts to rescue as many historic memorabilia as possible, including the Hall of Fame plaques, and items from the Historian's office.

Coach praised the heroics of the 343rd crewdogs in saving what important items they could from 497, as their effort was singular among other units on the base.

Hoskins and those efforts were featured in a front page story and photos in the Omaha World-Herald 17 April edition.

Making this gathering special, a cadre of 343rd personnel, led by their commander, **LtCol Nelson Tirado**, followed with their usual Friday 3:43 afternoon 'Roll Call', shared with the alumni. This was historic in that never had so many active duty troops spontaneously joined an in-progress reunion. **Hoo-Rah!!**



*LtCol Tirado, far left, barely: Former 343rd commanders in white shirts, L-R: Feldkamp, **Jim Ruane**, Ernst and Krishna.*

The membership meeting began at 1630 President Spivey presiding. In an orderly just under an hour session, he detailed **Association** business, reported on the reunion, and others gave reports and discussions. (See minutes following.)

A casual reception and buffet feed began at 1830 and was well attended. **55th Wing** Commander Colonel Michael Manion and his wife **Shannon** were there, as was Colonel Eric Paulson, the **55th**

Ops Group commander. Several local alums who came for the membership meeting stayed for the social (and commiserating at Klub Kennedy later.)

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Saturday morning found the entire group heading to the Omaha National Cemetery (ONC) for a major highlight event of the reunion, **the dedication of a monument to honor everyone who served in the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*, past, present and future.**

Emceed by Channel 7 TV news anchor Rob McCartney, whose late father, a retired USAF colonel, is buried there, the ceremony had it all: Honor Guard, national anthem sung by **Jimmie Weber**, speakers, Taps, and multiple photo ops by everyone.

This event was covered in the Sunday Midlands section of the World-Herald, 7 April, with a large photo of Spivey, Manion and **55th Wing Command ChiefMSgt Brian Thomas**; plus a short editorial piece the following Wednesday. (Although both items erroneously referred to the monument as a memorial dedicated "to the fallen", "those who died". The reporter and OW-H staff were duly informed of their errors.)

President Spivey made the presentation remarks, and Cindy Van Bibber, ONC Director, accepted on behalf of the cemetery. Colonel Manion spoke recognizing those attending, and all who served in the ***Fightin' Fifty-Fifth***.

Congressman Bacon was again the featured speaker, addressing the reunion attendees, "This is family, and it is a blessing having you here."



*At the unveiling, L-R: Chief Thomas, Colonel Manion, Joe Spivey. Photo by **Charles Hammond**, 55th Wing Public Affairs.*

The bronze plaque on the monument reads:

**WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT FREEDOM IS
NEVER REALLY FREE;
IT IS THE MOST COSTLY THING IN THE WORLD.
AND FREEDOM IS NEVER PAID FOR IN A LUMP
SUM;
PAYMENTS COME DUE IN EVERY GENERATION.
ALL ANY OF US CAN DO IS TO OFFER THE
GENERATIONS THAT FOLLOW A CHANCE FOR
FREEDOM.**

**THE SUN NEVER SETS ON
THE FIGHTIN' FIFTY-FIFTH
APRIL 6, 2019
THE 55TH WING ASSOCIATION
* * * * ***

After time for plenty of photo taking, walking around the area, etc, it was back on the buses for a quick jaunt to the rustic Around the Bend restaurant, which proudly claims 'it is in the middle of nowhere', famous for its prime rib specials and the vaunted Testicle Festival. There, a hearty repast was enjoyed before the next event.

Another short ride west on I-80 to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) and Aerospace Museum for one more dedication.

Gathering in the Museum's Restoration Area in the shadow of the displayed EC-135 *Looking Glass* aircraft that is being restored, **Mark (Vito) Spadaro** emceed this event (He was also the principle wrangler of the **55th Wing** Ceremonial Bell that appeared at every dedication event and the banquet.)

Remarks were then made by **Association** VP Ricky McMahon leading to the dedication of a commemorative bench from the **Association** to be placed in the Museum near the eventual final positioning of the EC-135 in Hangar A.

Spadaro then introduced **Steve Stevens**, a Hall of Fame member, who eventually went through the 'chairs' from commanding the 2ACCS, to **55th SRW** ADO, DO, vice and wing commander (November 1982-October 1984). He not only flew the *Glass* for years, he



is now a volunteer devoted to the restoration process.

Steve talked about that process, from getting the plane out of the elements, where it sat for over 20 years, to the point it is now, thanks to the many thousands of hours put in by dedicated volunteers over the past three years.

He lamented that the group could not go inside the aircraft, because he wished they could see that it looks as much like it did in the heyday of SAC as the volunteers could make it. His pride in that was evident. (*Explanation for no interior tours is in the EC restoration article later in this issue.*)

A return to the hotel for siestas (as needed), more conviviality at Klub Kennedy, and freshening up for the Grand Banquet at 1800.

President Spivey welcomed everyone to that event with remarks and by ringing the Ceremonial Bell. He introduced the distinguished guests; and there was a round of toasts.

Max Moore rang the bell to note the attendance of Colonel (Ret) **Paul Fortin**, 89 years young, a veteran RB-47 EWO who served in the **55th SRW** at Forbes AFB, KS, from 1955-1963, and the most senior alumnus there. He was accompanied by his wife, **Jane**. They reside in Topeka.

After the fine dining, Major General John Rauch, a former **55th Wing** commander (June 2012-June 2013), and an active **Association** member, currently serving as Air Force Chief of Safety, Headquarters USAF, Washington, DC, and Commander, Air Force Safety Center, Kirtland AFB, NM, was introduced as the guest speaker. He rang the bell then spoke of the Wing's history and other topics.



Congressman Bacon also made a few remarks and stating that he had read a proclamation on the floor of the House of Representatives on 1 April regarding the **55th Wing**, the **Association** and the reunion. (*The complete text of that document is published on page 9.*)

Spivey also noted that there were similar proclamations made at the Nebraska Unicameral,

Sarpy County Commissioners, and Papillion City Council. Copies of those documents were on display at the back of the banquet room.

Spy V wound up the festivities by recognizing everyone on the reunion committee and their duties for their strong support, asking them to stand for an ovation by the crowd.

One would think that wound up the evening's doings, but one would be wrong with this crowd.

The reunion-ites adjourned to Klub Kennedy's rooms and spilled into the hallways, seemingly not wanting the reunion to end, and it did not until well past midnight.

Even at breakfast Sunday morning, many guests lingered in saying their farewells before hitting the interstates or airways.

Already there were cries of "Tucson here we come!! Can't wait!!!"

(It may be necessary to alert the local authorities there in advance.)

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REUNION COMMITTEE

No operation this big can happen without a dedicated team to get details right, run agendas smoothly, demonstrate a good work ethic and possess a winning "can do" attitude.

The recent Recon Rendezvous was no exception. The 2019 Reunion/Recon Rendezvous Omaha Team included: Chairman Spy V; Vice Chair, McMahon; "Temp Chairs", Mo Krishna and John Cooper; Treasurer/Registration, Michael Cook; Web Master/Registration/Decals, Jim Maloney; Transportation, Denny Haun; Hotel/Event Coordinator/Posters, **Mark Schenck**.

Trusted Advisors: (*Obiwan Kenobi*) Jim Thomas (*Presidential*), and Max Moore (Admin and PR); **Johnny Johnson** (ONC); Hospitality Suite/Registration, Ham and Pat Kennedy; Sarpy Co Vets Memorial Ceremony, Don Kelly; ONC Monument Ceremony, Mike Hoskins; SAC Museum Ceremony/Brief, Vito Spadaro and Steve Stevens; golf outing (*ill-fated*), **Jon Adams**; Cloisters Hosts: Kate Ostdiek (plus ceremonial wreaths) and Denny and Cheryl Haun.

Briefers: Colonel Anthony, Dr. Streetman and Colonel LeVan; plus DPAA coordination, Joe Shanley; Banquet Toasters: Krishna (invocation),

McMahon (Past), Kelly (Present) and Dugie (Future—tied to our next reunion in Tucson).

A FIRM salute also goes to the many unsung (behind the scenes) heroes/volunteers who worked the registration desk shifts, hospitality suite logistics and barkeeps—including Ravens from the 343rd RS who went BYOB on their flood-dispersed "Roll Call".

Additionally, there were several who were the "wind beneath our wings" of those in direct support. Those included: Congressman Bacon, NE State Senator Arch, Sarpy County Commissioner Kelly, Papillion Mayor Black, Colonel Manion, **55th WG/CC**, Colonel LeVan, **55th WG/CV**, **LtCol Aaron Gray**, **55th Wing** Director of Staff; **Ryan Hanson**, **55th Wing/PA**; and the ENTIRE **55th Wing** Protocol shop under **Mark (Ski) Borytsky**.

To all, "WELL DONE!"

Videmus Omnia, Spy V.

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DONATIONS

The **Association** received generous monetary support for the ONC monument, bench and reunion funding.



This facsimile check for \$1000 is accepted by President Spivey from VP Ricky McMahon representing L-3 Technologies ComCept..

The **Association** was also privileged to receive other donations, including **Spiral Solutions Technology**, which amiably contributed \$1000.

Previously noted in the February issue of VO were **Calvert Systems Engineering's** \$3000 donation, as well as \$250 from **Sonoran Technology**.

In addition to those corporate donors, several **Association** members made individual donations to the monument fund raising.

Some attendees directly contributed over and above for their scheduled reunion activity fees. A few members who had to cancel their reunion plans graciously donated their fees to the reunion coffers, as did some who refused refunds for canceled or missed events.

To ALL who contributed (or who would like to, post-Reunion) please accept a hearty ‘Thank you!’ from the entire **55th Wing Association** for your generosity toward our monument fund drive and the reunion.

Our **Association** is privileged to serve, recognize and honor *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth* alums for their noble service, selfless commitment to mission, and steadfast devotion to duty. With the April 2019 dedication ceremonies, we did just that.

Each contribution serves to honor all *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth* alumni, including past, present and future members, making a lasting impact to generations of **55th Wing** airmen. The **55th Wing Association** is committed to “Honoring those who served; and, serving those who do.” Your support encapsulated that concept. Thank you! VO, *Spy V.*

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PROCLAMATION

This testimony was given on the floor of the House of Representatives by Congressman Don Bacon (NE-2), BrigGen USAF Retired and former 55th Wing Commander (March 2011-June 2012) on 1 April 2019.



Mr./ Madame Speaker, I rise to commemorate the long-standing bond our Midwest communities enjoy with the United States Air Force’s *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth*, also known as the **55th Wing** based at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, but with units and people spread all around the globe. The **55th Wing** and the **55th Wing Association** will jointly celebrate a uniquely treasured relationship at this year’s reunion in April that will feature dedications and commemorative events.

The *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth’s* historic lineage began before World War II. Since 1940, the unit has

distinguished itself as a preeminent Air Force organization, flying and supporting worldwide operations in peace and conflict. Of note, the **55th Fighter Group** conducted fighter sweeps over the invasion beaches on June 6, 1944 using their P-38s.

In 1966, the *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth* transferred to Nebraska still under the Strategic Air Command. For over fifty years, **55th Wing** personnel have supported national interests around the world; primarily focused on providing significant reconnaissance, real-time intelligence, command and control, information warfare, and combat support capabilities.

It is the largest wing in Air Combat Command and flies the most diverse types of aircraft. Notably, since DESERT SHIELD/STORM, the **55th Wing** is the only Air Force wing with continuous operations, maintenance, and aircraft presence in the United States Central Command theater of operations.

Indeed, the sheer longevity of this storied unit’s history and global mission-reach, personifies their motto, “The sun never sets on the *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth*”. This phrase is spoken often at ceremonies and will continue to be for years to come.

The unit’s exceptional record of service was the catalyst for the **55th Wing Association’s** creation. Following decades of *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth* camaraderie, global deployments, and operational achievements, a handful of veteran aviators were determined to preserve this invaluable heritage, so it would not be lost to future generations. This innovative initial cadre formed the **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association** to serve alongside Offutt’s **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing** active duty force. Both organizations were eventually renamed to today’s **55th Wing** and **55th Wing Association**, respectively; but have remained Nebraska-based ever since.

The **55th Wing Association** is comprised of Air Force veterans who served honorably in the *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth*, many of whom were stationed at Offutt Air Force Base. The **55th Wing Association’s**

support to their active duty counterparts is second to none and its support to **55th Wing** alumni is a model for other Air Force organizations to emulate. It embodies the impressive relationship between alumni veterans and active duty military members in their credo, “Honoring those who served; and serving those who do”. It could not be said any better.

This bond between veteran citizens and military personnel is nothing short of remarkable. These



organizations demonstrate the very best of cooperation to serve our national interests, sustain organizational values, and foster military fellowship from as far back as those who served in World War II to those of the present who still fly, fight, and win our nation's battles right now. Their relationship will forever be enshrined at the ceremonies in Nebraska on April 6th, where monuments will be dedicated to the alumni of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*, past, present, and future.

In 2003, the **55th Wing Association** captured the inspirational essence of their history in choosing the following inscription on their National US Air Force Museum monument:

"We must never forget that freedom is never really free; it is the most costly thing in the world and freedom is never paid in a lump sum; payments come due in every generation. All any of us can do is to offer the generations that follow a chance for freedom."

The **55th Wing Association** also chose those same words for inclusion on a monument they will dedicate this April. They are fitting praise for the accomplishments of the past and a challenge to the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* for the future.

Just 11 days ago Nebraska was hit with the worst natural disaster in the history of our state, and a third of Offutt Air Force Base was damaged, including key operations and support facilities. The *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* never missed a beat supporting operations all over the world and continued training.

This indomitable spirit of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* led the **Secretary of the Air Force, Heather Wilson**, to say "Not even Mother Nature can defeat the **55th Wing**."

After 75+ years as an organizational flying wing, over a half-century based in Nebraska, and more than 25 consecutive years deployed in the Middle East for combat operations, the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* has earned our highest respect and I am honored to salute the **55th Wing Association** for all its efforts to preserve its rich heritage.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MINUTES

5 APRIL 2019

EMBASSY SUITES - LAVISTA, NE

President Joe Spivey called the meeting to order at 1640. He made welcoming remarks, announcing that IAW the **Association** By Laws this meeting notice was provided in the last two newsletters, and that a quorum was present.

Max Moore moved that the reading of the minutes from the Tampa reunion be dispensed with as they were published in the newsletter following the reunion, and are available on the **Association** web site. Seconded by many and motion passed.

Pres Spivey noted, "As you know, the theme of this year's reunion is "Honoring those who served and serving those who do". "We trust that you have, and will continue to enjoy the events we have planned for you; as well as, the fellowship with *Fightin' Fifth-Fifth* alumni."



Pres Spivey announced that the Board of Directors (BoD) met last Wednesday, and he reported "New Business" items as resulting

from that meeting: The BoD allocated \$550 to the USAF Ball at Offutt in September; Allocated \$1000 to Fisher House to support families of wounded warriors.

He also noted that as a result of discussions on these topics, he had decided to launch two exploratory committees on the following subjects: A review of current by-laws with the potential for a re-write, refinement of BoD membership numbers; and on **Association** Membership recruitment, a reach-out drive with incentives, techniques to expand, deal with aging population, facilitate **Association** involvement with the active wing, and modernize recruitment/sustainment processes.

The leadership and composition of the committees is TBD, the goal is to appoint the committees by end of this month, and with a 3-6 months due-out recommendation reports to the BoD.

Treasurer Michael Cook was recognized to give reports on the financial situation of the **Association** and membership update. Cook stated that there was \$76,800 balance in the account, which included reunion registration payments. He stated the organization was in good financial stead. Moore asked what the balance would be after the reunion bills were paid, Cook stated about \$60,000. Cook also explained that dues paid for years in advance had to be pro-rated over those future years.

Members in good standing were at 401. There were 76 members whose dues expired on 31 December 2018 and were dropped from the rolls at the end of the 31 March grace period. It was expressed that some renewals could come in as a result of the reunion package newsletter, and at the reunion. Moore commented that

those whose dues had expired would also be contacted with a ‘friendly reminder’. Historically, that usually results in about a 30% return rate.

Cook again emphasized that the newsletter address label is annotated with the dues expiration date of each member. Life members and widows are dues exempt. Cook also stressed that all **Association** correspondence must be mailed to the **Association** PO box address and not to his home address. This method assures forms and checks go to the proper place for processing.

Cook urged members to continue to recruit new members and encouraged current members to renew in a timely manner. He also recognized Moore for his assistance in keeping the membership data base in good order.

Spivey mentioned that after his two-year tour leading the **55th Wing**, Colonel Manion will be replaced this summer, and that the incoming commander, **Colonel Gavin Marks** has an AWACS background. Vice Commander Colonel Sherri LeVan (an RC-pilot) will be going to Texas A&M as the Professor of Air Science. Her replacement will likely come from the EC-130 community.



The crowd in rapt attention.

He noted the **Association** BoD will be actively involved to shore-up relations with the new **Wing** leadership to ensure they will be properly informed of the **Wing**’s storied history, and the **Association**’s support. First on that agenda will be the traditional get acquainted dinner by local **Association** members with the new **Wing** CC at the earliest date convenient.

Opening New Business, Pres Spivey remarked that at the Tampa reunion we discussed using Reunion BRATS to facilitate future reunions. He also noted that Colonel Manion suggested the next reunion be held in Tucson, AZ, as the **55th Wing** has the **55th Electronic Combat Group (ECG)** at Davis-Monthan; dual purpose being to give the **Association** exposure to that unit, and the probable assistance from the ECG.

To that end the BoD decided at its 3 April meeting to have the next reunion in Tucson, managed by Reunion BRAT. Time frame target is October 2020 to April

2021. Director Val Dugie (a Tucson native) volunteered to be the **Association**’s lead coordinator.

Steve Stevens rose to move that the **Association** donate \$555 to the SAC Museum specifically for the EC-135 restoration fund. Seconded and passed. *(This action was subsequently administratively approved by the BoD, and that the donation would come from the monies paid to the Museum for entry fees, bench cost, and thus, not be a new budget item).*

The president recognized Moore as the BoD Nomination Chair. He reported all 16 incumbent directors chose to stand for re-election and there was one new nomination. That filled the maximum number of 17 elected directors allowed by the By Laws.

The slate of nominees was read and those in attendance recognized: Spivey, McMahon, Cook, Seinwill, Ernst, Thomas, Moore, Maloney, Kennedy, Ross, Censullo, Kelly, Hoberman, Krishna, Dugie, Jeanes, and **Bill McKechnie**.

President Spivey opened the floor for further nominations. There being none, **Terry Murphy** moved the nominations be closed. Seconded by many and passed. Murphy then moved the slate be elected by acclamation. Seconded and passed.

Moore noted that Colonel Priesman will remain an active duty director as long as he remains with the **55th Wing** and/or chooses to do so. He also reminded the BoD members that they would meet immediately after the membership meeting to elect the executive positions.

The president reviewed the remaining reunion events, then recognized all the reunion committee members and praised them for their diligent work in executing a successful agenda of dedications and socials. *(All the names and duties will be in a reunion recap article for the newsletter.)*

It was moved and seconded by many that the meeting be adjourned. Passed at 1725.

Respectfully submitted,

Max R Moore, Acting Secretary.

* * * * *

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

5 APRIL 2019

EMBASSY SUITES - LAVISTA, NE

The elected Board members convened immediately after the membership meeting and President Spivey called the meeting to order at 1730.

Those attending were: Spivey, McMahon, Cook, Moore, Ernst, Thomas, Kelly, Kennedy, Krishna, Maloney, Dugie, Ross, McKechnie, a quorum.

Moore moved that the incumbents of the four executive positions be re-elected. It was seconded by many and passed. Those are President Spivey, Vice President McMahon, Treasurer Cook, Secretary Seinwill.

It was noted the president would make re-appointments to positions currently held by Webmaster Maloney, Awards Chair Kennedy, Newsletter Editor Moore, Historian William Sargent; and any other positions and/or committees as required to conduct **Association** business.

Meeting adjourned at 1740.

Respectfully submitted,

Max R Moore, Acting Secretary

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. 129th 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, Bill McKechnie. Active Duty Representative: Colonel David Preisman.

Appointed Historian:

William (Bill) Sargent

2711 Northwood Circle

Papillion, NE, 68133

William488@cox.net

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TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 9 May 2019, the treasury had an account balance (rounded) of 52,000, after all the reunion bills were paid.

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



Front L-R: Krishna, McKechnie, Cook, Ernst, Thomas, Moore. Back L-R: Kelly, Maloney, Ross, Kennedy, McMahon, Censullo, Dugie.

* * * * *

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DIRECTORY**

Association Business/Policy/Issues:

President Joe Spivey

25014 Farnam Circle

Waterloo, NE, 68069

E-mail: jespivey@thecseteam.com

Vice President Ricky McMahon

14325 Orlando Road

Nokesville, VA 20181

E-mail: potomacpistol@gmail.com

to which the dues apply. For example, dues paid for years thru 2022 are prorated and spent through the ensuing years.

One optimistic gent is paid through 2037!

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

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There were 437 members in good standing as of 20 May 2019, compared with 466 on 31 December.

On 1 April 2019, 70 members were removed from good standing status as dues were not renewed.

A 'friendly reminder' was sent to lapsed members after the grace period to encourage them to return to the fold. Several (33) did.

134 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 15, plus one member of the Royal Air Force.

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

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.

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.

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

THE ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

What is the first thing you do when you get a new directory? You look up yourself to see what's there, huh?



Then, if something is amiss, most comments will be some version of: "My (insert item) is wrong!!"

A more correct term should be 'outdated'.

After months of diligent work in trying to make it the best directory possible, unfortunately, feces occurs. No amount of proofreading nearly 700 entries of names, addresses, phone numbers, etc., will catch every typo, and we *mea culpa* on those.

But, if members relocate and do not tell us, how can we know? Changes are even more prevalent with e-mail addresses as folks drop or change servers, or revise their e-addresses.

Worse yet, some packages will be returned as **non-deliverable** for whatever reasons to which the USPS attributes. First-class mailed is forwarded unless the addressee has moved over one year before. Otherwise, it is returned to sender.

If/when mail is returned to the **Association**, then 'we' research and try to locate those members, or widows, and resend when possible.

We need members' help in keeping all the contact info current.

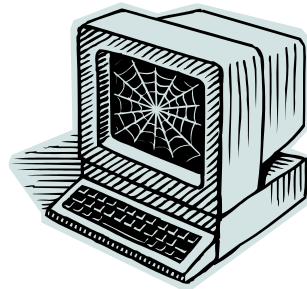
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ASSOCIATION WEB SITE 55wa.org

Our updated **55wa.org** web site is operating smoothly and securely. 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://

You can now 'search' for a name 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" in the patio, or purchase another one.



I'm always open to getting positive suggestions and recommendations to improve navigation or access to the site.

If you would like to be notified whenever there's a change to a web site (i.e. **55WA.ORG**), here are a few web content monitoring tools that notify you of any changes in your favorite pages so you don't have to access them frequently. (These limited number of web sites are free.)

Go to the site, set up your account, and start monitoring. (I use Trackly (<https://trackly.io/>)
Visualping (<https://visualping.io/>)
Versionista (<https://versionista.com/>)
ChangeTower (<https://changetower.com/>)
Good luck.

Jim Maloney, the Web Guy.
* * * * *

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.

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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55th WING CHANGE OF COMMAND

Colonel Gavin P. Marks will assume command at a ceremony on 14 June 2019.

* * * * *

COLONEL MANION'S FAREWELL

As our time at Offutt AFB draws to a close, **Shannon** and I pause to reflect upon the meaning of the last two years, and the incredible opportunity we've had to serve in such a storied **wing**, among the dedicated men and women of the ***Fightin' Fifty-Fifth.***



From our **wing's** infancy as the **55th Pursuit Group**, flying P-38s and P-51s in WWII; through the high-alert of the Cold War operating RB-47s and RC-135s from forward operating locations; to now, as we project our intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, and electronic attack capabilities across the entire globe, I am constantly humbled by the stories of Airmen who wear the uniform of our country and deliver American airpower to every corner of the earth.

The Warhawks are a vital part of this story, and I am grateful to the **55th Wing Association** for their part in preserving that history and continuing to tell our tale.

The past two years have been historic for the **55th Wing**. My first few weeks of command were a whirlwind, as our community and flight line suffered the effects of the first tornados to strike Bellevue, Nebraska in fifty years.

Our resilient Airmen quickly recovered, and were immediately called upon to refocus our combat forces to the Pacific theater, displaying our national resolve to the dictatorial North Korean regime, and ultimately paving the way for our President's historic diplomatic summit.

At home we celebrated our Air Force and its global dominance, hosting the 2018 Defenders of Freedom Air and Space Show, at which we honored

the family of our base's namesake, **First Lieutenant Jarvis Offutt**.

We've continued to upgrade our aging fleet, preparing to replace the EC-130H with a new airframe, and to recapitalize the OC and WC-135. We honed our warfighters' contingency skills, conducting eight major exercises and inspections with joint and combined partners, ensuring our ability to fight our nation's wars downrange.

This spring we honored our past, present, and future veterans as we (and the **55th Wing Association**) dedicated a monument to our **55th Wing** at the Omaha National Cemetery.

Finally, as Team Offutt recovers from the unprecedented flood of 2019, we envision an even brighter future, as we rebuild the base to optimize our twenty-first century warfighting capabilities and replace an aged runway to ensure continued operations for many decades to come.

During my time in command, the Airmen of the **55th Wing** have accomplished truly historic things, and I will be forever humbled by their dedicated service to Offutt AFB and the United States Air Force.

In closing, I'd like to thank the **55th Association** for the role it plays in recognizing and honoring the **wing's** current and former members, and for preserving its proud heritage.

It has been an absolute pleasure to command in America's heartland and to be part of Offutt AFB's remarkable story. Shannon and I have loved every minute of it.

So, as we say farewell in the twilight of my command, I entrust the Warhawk legacy, its future, and its telling of its tale to the **55th Wing Association** and to the men and women of the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth**.

Warhawks...LEAD THE FIGHT!

* * * * *

UK MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY 2019

The **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth** will again carry out a Memorial Day tradition 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 the **55th Fighter Group** from WWII.

CMSgt Dan Humbert will represent the 95th Recon Squadron, a **55th Wing** unit at RAF Mildenhall, and will do the honors. (*Full coverage and photo in next issue of the VO.*)

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MAIL 'N STUFF

Max:

Just received and read the **Videmus Omnia 55th Wing Assn** newsletter and it is great, as always.

I did not realize how many events I missed this last year.

Personal issues just made the time fly by, but the newsletter made up for everything.

I plan on doing better this year in attending **Wing** and **Association** functions.

Again, congratulations on an excellent newsletter.

Steve Stevens, Pacific Junction, IA
(*E-mail 26 January, 2019*)

* * * * *

Max,

Just finished reading the January newsletter. As always, a fantastic job, filled with info and written in a style to entertain. You certainly set the bar high for others. Well done!

You deserve the kudos.

Cheers, **Terry Murphy**, New Bern, SC.
(*From an e-mail, 27 January 2019.*)

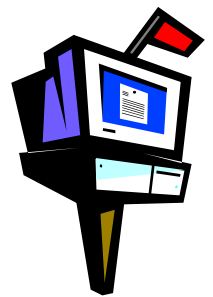
* * * * *

Max:

I have to pass this one on. Every Thursday morning I meet with three retired chiefs at Starbucks on base before we go shopping in the commissary. We sit there and have a cuppa coffee and talk for an hour.

We watch the young troops come in and buy expensive coffee and goodies.

This morning three of them, separately and obviously realizing we were retired, came over and introduced themselves and thanked us for our service.



Good feeling that some young ones appreciate us and take the time to say so.

Jack Kovacs, Fairborn, OH.
(From an e-mail, 7 February 2019)
* * * * *

Dear Max,

I'm writing to let you know that we lost our mother, and the wife of **Colonel William Riggs**, on February 3. She was 99 years young! She and Dad were married 57 years before his passing in 1999.

Mother loved receiving the **55th Wing Association** newsletter, and always checked out the TAPS page first to see if she knew anyone. I think she outlived most of her "buddies".

It's been quite a few years since Dad's induction into the Hall of Fame (2001), when I came to Bellevue for the ceremony. I get back to Lincoln or Omaha, usually a couple times a year, but **never** in winter (hope you are surviving this brutal arctic onslaught!).

Best wishes to you, Max! Thank you for all you do to keep the **55th Wing Association** newsletter going, so that all who choose to can stay connected. It's a terrific thing!

Thank you,
Kimberly Chandio, San Antonio, TX
(Edited from an e-mail, 8 February 2019)
* * * * *

Max:

I want to thank you and the rest of the crew who set up the Omaha reunion. **Great job!**

Other than my buddy from the **55th** Avionics Maintenance Squadron, who was only able to come on Wednesday and had to leave Thursday, I knew nobody; yet, **I had a great time.**

That goes to show that us **55th-ers** are all brothers, a few sisters there, also.

Next reunion please have a few bottles of Sam Adams and/or Coors Banquet available for the hospitality room. :-)

Thanks again.
Roy Hershey Lewis, Wappingers Falls, NY
(From an e-mail 10 April 2019)

(Ed. Note: *Hershey spent just four years in the AF, 1.5 in the 55th at Offutt; yet, he has stayed connected as an Association member for many years.*)

* * * * *

Joe,

Thank you for a superior reunion celebration! It was a wonderful three day event. I met so many interesting people and heard so many interesting stories.

Probably the highlight for me was the presentation by Dr. Emily Streetman about her work identifying the remains of fallen sailors on the USS Oklahoma. My cousin was one of the sailors who had been identified.

It was actually a very emotional moment for me seeing his picture on the screen. I am very grateful for all the time and effort DNA the team invests in the identification of fallen sailors.

Bob Boeding, Lawler, IA
(From an e-mail 28 April 2019)

* * * * *

OFFUTT O-CLUB/PATRIOT IS GONE

The building remains, but it is no longer an official Offutt social and dining facility.

The Offutt Officers Open Mess (OOM), aka, O-Club, that once was one of the social hubs at Offutt AFB, and the center of camaraderie for decades, began to devolve in the 1990s due to declining membership and rising labor and operations costs.



A similar set of circumstances happened with the vaunted NCO Club, and it became The Stripes Club for all enlisted personnel. It could not recover from a generation culture gap.

What once was the Airmen's Club, became a community center, eventually closed and the building demolished.

Circa 2001, the decision was made to combine the functions into an all ranks club in the former OOOM facility renamed the Patriot Club.

The inactive NCO Club building was eventually razed after sitting unused and falling into disrepair over time.

The situation continued in a downward spiral for the Patriot Club of lessened patronage and rising operating costs that could not be sustained.

Finally, effective 1 January 2019, the dining room and kitchen were closed, and the club transitioned into the Warhawk Community Center.

The facility can still be booked through the 55th Services Sqd, but due to a now limited staff, customers are responsible for setting up, catering, breaking down, and cleaning up the space they use.

The Raiders Lounge (casual bar) remains open on Fridays from 1530 to 2100, the last vestige and a faded memory of what once was.

* * * * *

FORMER OFFICER'S CLUB DISTINCTIVE MURAL REMOVED

*TSgt Rachelle Blake, 55th Wing Public Affairs
February 7, 2019*

If art could talk, the 40-foot mural, once running along the Global Lounge's north wall, in the former Offutt Officers Club would have a lot to say.

"You would do business all week long and then go to the lounge Friday after work, talking to your compatriots, or your immediate commander, and you could talk about subjects from the week," said US Air Force retired LtCol Max Moore, who began frequenting the club in the 1970s.

"Camaraderie – that is what it was all about. No matter how stressful your week was, you came to the club and 'decompressed'. I am not the only one to say this, there was also a lot of business done in the officer's club, as well."

At the time of its unveiling, the lounge's mural was at the epicenter of the officer's club – the place to be on any given night during SAC's heyday.

The Strategic Air Command Consultation Committee commissioned Omaha artist **Bill J. Hammon** to create the mural from 1958 to 1965 depicting the great cities of the world.



*This section has Rome, Paris and Istanbul.
Other panels included Washington, DC, New York,
Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, San Francisco, Berlin, et al.*

"If you took friends, family, or neighbors to the club for social time or dinner, the first thing you did was walk to the wall and show it to them," Moore said. "It was a source of pride. The mural defined the club. It gave the Global Lounge its name, and is what made the Offutt officer's club unique."

During this time and the years to follow, Offutt Air Force Base was growing exponentially as Strategic Air Command's role in the Cold War expanded – going as far as to make headlines in Hollywood where it was depicted in four feature films.

Circa 1992 a decision was made to cover the mural. (*Ed. note: A certain SAC general's wife thought the wall was 'tacky' and wanted it removed completely. But, Colonel Bill Manire, 55th Wing commander at the time, had the good judgment to have Civil Engineering encase it.*)

In the mid-1990's that decision was reversed, the mural was displayed again, and the lounge was renovated. Artist **Thomas Knonen** refurbished the painting after years of cigarette smoke filled evenings, and too many people touching the mural.

The piece is comprised of 13 panels of plywood adorned with oil paint and mediums such as foam, paper and cardboard to create a raised 3D effect, with black lighting highlighting the florescent paint.

"We were invited to recover and conserve the piece," **Mark Strehle**, curator of the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum, said. Strehle, and eight volunteers, made several reconnaissance

trips to the base in order to plan the removal. In January the move was made.

“Photographs and drawings are nice, but the emotive content that went into creating the level of art here, sings to the honor, the integrity, the commitment, the loyalty, of the United States Air Force, and all the airmen in it,” said Strehle.

(Original article abbreviated and edited by Moore. Comment: At least this mural is preserved and stored vice the gone-missing mural from Bldg 497.)

* * * * *

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 12. 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.)

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 and ergonomic keyboard..)

* * * * *

A NEW MEANING FOR ‘USING THE CAN’



*RB-47 Tell Two Crew S-35, Incirlik AB, Turkey
September 1965*

L-R: AC Jimmy Haynes, CP Dick ‘Lurch’ Mangold, Nav Max Moore, R-1 Roy Fair, R-2 Lee Holbert. (Note: In every previous crew photo, vertically challenged Moore was usually wedged between co-pilots and ravens who were taller.

Not this time.)

* * * * *

EAST COAST “CHAPTER”

East coast area alumni, including active duty, retirees, Pentagon habituates, and ‘beltway bandits’, have occasional social gatherings. Events are organized periodically for reconnecting and camaraderie in the 55th spirit.

Major General John Rauch and his wife Diane graciously hosted a social at their home at Bolling AFB, MD, for several local area 55th alumni. It

was held on Saturday, 13 April, just a week after the Omaha reunion. Trish and **Jeff Seinwill** were the organizers. Ricky and **Cary McMahon** provided wine and cider for tasting. *Photo from Trish.*



L-R: Andersen, the McMahon, and Erteschik.

Others attending were: **Tom and Sheri Andersen, Dean and Lisa Yount, Bill and Ann Strandberg, Stuart and Mary Latta, Dennis Gillon, Dave Erteschik, LtCol Alexa Quant, and Major John Casey.**

Also there were: **Ryan Lubinski** and wife, **LtCol Jeanette Riveria-Breznai, Emery Breznai, Major John Donaldson, and Major Charles Sciarini,**

Besides the usual **55th** camaraderie, all hands enjoyed the Rauchs' hospitality, good food and beverages.

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 and Trish are considering a time frame to schedule a wine tasting in the Piedmont area of Virginia, later this summer.

Emery Breznai and Jeanette Rivera-Breznai plan to host a **55th Wing** get together at their home in the fall.

Details TBD and forth coming for each event.

If you know of any former ***Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's*** in the National Capitol Region who is **not currently** receiving **55th Wing Association** information, let Ricky or Trish know, or provide contact information for those persons, 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' remains 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.

Numbers vary at each monthly gathering, but 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.



L-R: Hank Dubuy, Jim Hilliard, Ned Gates, McBride and Frutchey. This photo contributed by McBride was taken at the 9 May 2019 lunch.



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 over four years into what is now a projected five year, \$250,000 project, on EC-135C Aircraft 38049.

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.

Over the last six months, the Museum staff has worked with consultants to prepare a Redevelopment Plan for what the Museum intends to do in the next five years or so.

The final positioning of 049 within the Museum, and the exhibits related to 049, are part of that plan.

The Redevelopment Plan has been approved by the Museum's Board of Directors, and is now being followed with some quiet fundraising prior to the plan being made public.

The Museum's schedule is to complete the redevelopment project between 2025 and 2027, with Hangar A being the first part of the project. Several aircraft will need to be repositioned to provide space for 049 to have its final, prominent location in Hangar A.



The reunion crowd takes a look at the EC exterior on Saturday, 6 April, after the Association bench dedication.

Restoration of 049 continues at a somewhat slower, less dramatic, pace. Almost all of the work reinstalling equipment and carpet in the interior of the aircraft is complete.

The next major project inside the aircraft is to install a clear, see-through, floor to ceiling, protective shield walkway from the main hatch forward to the cockpit, and back through the center aisle of the aircraft to the galley exit. The purpose of the protective walkway is to allow unsupervised access to the interior while protecting the restored equipment from potential vandalism, theft, and contamination by visitors.

Pending installation of the protective walkway, the interior of the aircraft will be

closed and visitors will not be allowed to tour the interior of the aircraft.

The Museum ended tours when restoration had progressed to the point where visitors interfered with safety and the orderly reinstallation of equipment. Now, the Museum must protect the outstanding work of its volunteers by making sure that a complete and uncontaminated aircraft is available for many years to tell the story of every crewmember's dedication and service in providing deterrence for the United States against a nuclear war during the Cold War.

We have a good thing going and have the Museum's support. Let's be patient a little longer.

Volunteers continue to work on the outside of the aircraft by sanding the fuselage. Some corrosion still needs to be repaired on the lower fuselage.

It is hoped the exterior of the aircraft can be painted this fall while the weather is still good enough to open the hangar doors for ventilation.

So far, volunteers have worked over 26,848 hours the aircraft. The Museum has collected donations of \$100,413 specifically for restoring 049 and has expended \$64,263.

55th Wing Association donated \$555 in April 2019.

Donations can be sent 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.

Restoration Manager **Mark Hamilton** has spearheaded the restoration of the aircraft to its current condition. He will retire at the end of June.



The restored cockpit, looking forward.

The pictures posted on sites are taken by the volunteers. If you like what you see, please express your appreciation of the volunteers in your Facebook comments. The pictures included in the latest update covers the period from 5 March 2019 to 16 April 2019.

The many pictures showing the project's progress from day one 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 provided by **Hank Carriger**, Volunteer Coordinator, Boerne, TX. From e-mail 30 April 2019. Numbers data provided by **Deb Hermann**, SAC Museum Development, Marketing, and Communications Director)*

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TAPS



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BRITTON, Mary, 92, 17 September 2018, Tucson, AZ. She was the widow of **Ray**, a longtime RB-47 pilot and staff officer in the **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW)** at Forbes AFB, KS, in the 1960s, and later in SAC HQ at Offutt AFB, NE. He passed in December 1998.

BLACK, Charles F., 89, 19 February 2019, Mt. Pleasant, PA. Charles was an RB-50 crew member in the 91st SRW, then the **55th SRW** at Ramey AFB, PR, circa 1950s.

BROWNING, William A., 82, 16 March 2019, El Dorado Springs, MO.; wife, **Linda**. A 1962 graduate of the Air Force Academy, he served in the **55th** at Offutt as an RC-135 pilot 1967-68.

DIBBELL, Betty, 19 August 2017, Tucson, AZ. Her husband **Robert (Bob)**, was an RB-47 pilot at Forbes. He essentially founded the **55th**

ELINT Association in the late 1960s, which eventually evolved into the organization it is today.

GARDNER, Joan, 83, Tallahassee, FL, 5 February 2019. The widow of **Don**, a veteran **55th** EWO in RB-47s at Forbes and RC-135s at Offutt. Joan was a career registered nurse who worked in several health care facilities over the years, including Health South in Tallahassee.

GURNEY, Donald G., 82, 6 February 2019, Carson City, NV.; wife of 34 years, **Barbara**. In addition to his service in the **55th**, Don flew RB-66s in Thailand in 1969; was a squadron commander at Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO, 1970-72. After retiring from the Air Force, he worked for the Nevada Dept. of Transportation for many years. He and Barb hosted two **55th** reunions in Reno ten years part, 1999 and 2009.

HARRIMAN, Evelyn R., 88, 8 May 2019, Papillion, NE. A Kansas native, Evie and husband, **Dick**, an RB-47 pilot, were at Forbes AFB during the 1960s before moving with the **55th SRW** to Offutt. They were married 64 years. Evie was a career nurse with the Visiting Nurse Association.

KNIFFIN, Charolette, 84, 20 December 2018, Oldsmar, FL, The widow of **Bill**, an RB-47 pilot in the **55th** at Forbes during the 1960s. She was a gracious Air Force wife devoted to her family.

KUSSMAN, Norma J., 83, 14 April 2019, Tulsa, OK. A native of Tennessee who served in the Women Army Corps for three years after high school, circa 1953. She was the companion of **Harris Blount** for 33 years. He was a long time **55th** EWO in RBs at Forbes and RCs at Kadena and Offutt, and still resides in Tulsa.

MALOT, Eleanor B. (Junie), 91, 21 January 2019, Omaha, NE. She was the widow of **Richard**, an RB-47 pilot at Forbes and later on staff at SAC HQ at Offutt. Junie was an avid golfer, gourmet cook, and world traveler.

MERROW, Scott F., 67, 14 March 2019, Monument, CO; wife, **Paula**. Scott had three tours with the **55th** beginning in 1977 as an RC-135 navigator in the 38th SRS at Offutt. In 2000-01 he was the Deputy Ops Group commander. At that time he also served on the **Association** Board of Directors. He later had a diplomatic posting in Athens, Greece.

REGAN, Michael, 59, 17 April 2019, Grass Valley, CA.; wife, **Candice**. A military brat born on Guam, Mike was an RC-135 EWO for 14 years in the 343rd RS at Offutt beginning in the 1990s. He later served as a U-2 mission planner at Beale AFB, CA. He retired there after 22+ years service.

RIGGS, Alice K., 99, 3 February 2019, San Antonio, TX. The widow of **William (Bill)**, a WWII veteran pilot and the longest serving **55th SRW** commander (August 1966-July 1970); he was inducted in to the Wing Hall of Fame in 2001. Alice was a proud Army brat born at Ft Sam Huston, then a cavalry post, and literally grew up on Army posts all over the country. She was truly a great lady of the **55th**, graciously performing the duties of a commander's spouse, she was the epitome of a military wife, role model and mentor.

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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 LAST CALL, Y'ALL

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.

But, those orders are few and far between in recent years. So, this is a final notice.

Anyone interested in doing so should contact **Jim Thomas** He can be reached at Jthomas927@cox.net, or snail mail to: 4418 Anchor Mill DR, Bellevue, NE, 68123.

Any new brick orders must be sent no later than **1 July 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 j1a2c3k@aol.com to coordinate and learn what work it entails.

They are advancing in senior status and can use the assistance. We are fortunate to have their good works in the upkeep of the cherished memorial.

The Museum staff does not do any monitoring of the monument sites.

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 half an hour every two weeks or so. No real heavy work; mainly: want-to, sweeping, weed spraying, pick-up-sticks.

Also checking the monument and patio for damage from mowers, tourists, etc.

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REUNIONS

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HOG HEAVEN TURNS 82!! REUNION AT OKINAWA

*Contributed by Colonel Alan Dayton,
Former Commander 2011 – 2013*

On 1 June 2019, Hoggies will 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**, plans two days of activities to include diving, snorkeling, golfing, base/island touring, and culminating at a dinner hosted at Jack's Place or the Kadena O'Club.

Latest info at www.hogheavenreunion.com

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DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY

**DAYTON/FAIRBORN, OH
15-19 SEPTEMBER 2019**



The host hotel will be the Holliday Inn/Fairborn for this gathering. The DFC Society will be celebrating 100 years of American Air Power in an area rife with historical venues: the National Museum of the Air Force; Wright Bros Aviation Center; and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park, among others.

Complete updated information and registration details can be found on the DFC's web site: www.dfcsociety.net

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AFNO ASSOCIATION BRANSON, MO 24-26 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Radisson Hotel will be HQ for this group. Highlighting the event will be touring the Aviation Cadet Museum, and attending the Dolly Parton Dixie Stampede, an extraordinary dinner show featuring acts, horsemanship and a Patriotic Grand Finale.

Some cadet and navigator training classes will be holding mini-reunions, as well.

Information and registration form are in the organization's quarterly newsletters, DR AHEAD April and forthcoming July issues. Updated details are on the web site afnoa.org.



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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.

Sales were brisk at the reunion.

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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.

In the future more items, such as ball point pens, hot cups, etc., will be available with the **Association** logo emblazoned thereon.

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

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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ASSOCIATION TIES

Since the original supplies of the 'regimental tie' sold out over the years, a new batch will be ordered. Price and date available are TBD. As one can see from the reunion photos, the tie was prominent at the banquet.

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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 a **55th Commander's Wingman**, in recognition of his 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: Reunion photos throughout and in album: Peg Maloney, Kathy Murphy, and Moore; **55th pin** by Moore;

* * * * *

REUNION ATTENDEES

DANIEL AARON
JON AND DESIREE' ADAMS
TIM ADAMS
ANN MARIE ANTHONY
JIM AND PAM ARBUCKLE
DON AND ANGIE BACON
DOUG AND LYNN BARRETT
BJ AND LOU BATES
BOB AND PHYLLIS BOEDING
JIM AND MARILYN BROOKIE
DICK AND TERRI BROWN
DON AND MARCELLA BUFORD
CHUCK AND CAROL BURMEISTER
FOX CENSULLO



L-R: Val Dugie, Gary Smith, Joe Siniscalchi, Al Feldkamp

ALAN AND SANDY FELDKAMP

PAUL, JANE AND SUZANNE FORTIN
PHIL AND MARGRETA GIAMBRI
JOHN GREEN
MICHAEL AND TINA COOK
JOHN AND SHARRY COOPER
DICK DOOLITTLE
VAL DUGIE
BILL ERNST
DAVID ERTESCHIK
GARRY EVANS
WILLIAM AND EILEEN EVERETT
DENNY AND CHERYL HAUN
CLARK AND VALERIE HINKLE



L-R: Sandy Feldkamp, Patty Smith, Shirley Hoover, Pam Arbuckle, Carol Moore, Susan Mitchell, Peg Maloney, and the back of some guy's head. (No Sisterhood of the Shirt this go-around.)

RICH HOLSINGER
SHIRLEY HOOVER
JIM AND MARIA REY HUGHES
LARRY HUNGERFORD
PAUL JEANES
DAN JENSON
JOHN AND TONI JOHNSON
DON AND MELINDA KELLY
HAM AND PAT KENNEDY
RON KNECHT
CARLTON KNIGHT
MO AND SUZANNE KRISHNA
BOB KRIST
CLIFF AND KAY LAMBERT
TIM AND SHANNON LAMONS
DOUG AND SHERRI LEVAN
ROY HERSHEY LEWIS
MACE AND GLADYS MACELHANEY

JIM AND PEG MALONEY
 MICHAEL AND SHANNON MANION
 STU MARTIN
 ROB MCCARTNEY
 CRAIG MCFALL
 MICHAEL AND PEARL MCFARLAND
 BILL AND SUE MCKECHNIE
 RICKY MCMAHON
 JEFF AND DEB MINER
 LARRY AND SUSAN MITCHELL
 MAX AND CAROL MOORE
 TERRY AND KATHY MURPHY
 KATE OSTDIEK
 ERIC PAULSON AND WENDY
 WATSON
 GEORGE AND BETTY ROSS
 ROLAND AND KATHY SAENZ
 MIKE SCACCA

MARK SPADARO
 JOE AND ARLENE SPIVEY
 EMILY STANTON
 STEVE AND SUZANNE STEVENS
 REGGIE STEWART AND BERTICE
 RHINEY
 BRUCE STOHLMAN
 BILL AND ANN STRANDBERG
 MIKE AND SUE TABLER
 KEVIN TODD
 JIM AND SHARON THOMAS
 BEN AND KATINA UNGERMAN
 CINDY VAN BIBBER
 WAD WADDELL
 JIMMIE WEBBER
 DAVE AND IRENE WOLFE
 LARRY AND SUSAN WOLFE
 BRIAN AND BRENDA WORTH



The Laughing Boys.

*L-R: Spanky McFarland, Jim Arbuckle, Don
 Buford, Crash McFall, Larry Hungerford,
 and Bill Ernst.*

FRED SCHAPKER
 MARK AND JILL SHCENCK
 JOE AND JOANNE SHANLEY
 JOE SINISCALCHI
 DEREK RACHEL
 CHIP AND SHARON RASMUSSEN
 DON AND KATHI REMAKLUS
 JOHN AND DIANE RAUCH
 DICK RAY AND COLLEEN MCKAY
 HANK AND JOANN RIEDEN
 DAN AND KATHY ROCHA
 GARY AND PATTY SMITH
 RICK AND JOY SMITH

IN ADDITION: LTCOL NELSON TIRADO,
 343RD RS COMMANDER, LED 26 OF HIS
 TROOPS TO A ROLL CALL.
55TH WING COLOR GUARD (6), BUGLER,
 PROTOCOL (3), PUBLIC AFFAIRS (3),
 VOLUNTEER AIRMEN (12)



What happens at the reunion, stays at the reunion.

We tell, see and hear nothing!!!

L-R: Kennedy, Mitchell, Moore

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NEXT STOP, TUCSON!!

REUNION PHOTO ALBUM

FRIDAY BRIEFINGS



John Cooper moderates.



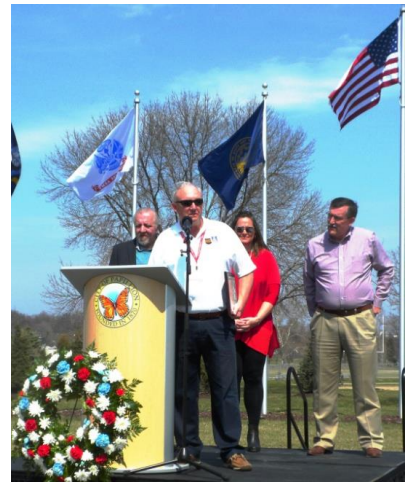
Col Anthony USSTRATCOM



Dr. Streetman DPAA



Hy Vee lunch bunch munching



Spy V at Papio Vets Park

FRIDAY RECEPTION



Larry Mitchell, the Manions, Susan Mitchell, Ernst



Hinkle, the Strandbergs, Remaklus, and Mace



Back: The Remaklus, Hinkle, Gladys MacElhaney
Front: Valerie Hinkle, McFarland, Peg Maloney, Brian Worth



Jim Thomas in between Sue and Bill McKechnie



Saturday morning at the Omaha National Cemetery.
Jimmie Webber at podium, **55th Wing** Color Guard presents the colors.



L-R: Bacon, Manion, Spivey, Van Bibber



The appreciative crowd of reunion-ites



Get on the bus, get off the bus....,



and away we go !!!



No, we had roast beef. 'Nuff said.



These goodly groups enjoy time in Klub Kennedy.



BANQUET



Head table: Bacons, Rauchs, Ungermans, Spiveys



Bates, Stevens, Dick Scott, Tablers



Don and Mel Kelly, Sharry and John Cooper



After banquet Hospitality Hallway. Party on!!
Mitchell asking "What are looking at?"



A Sunday morning farewell breakfast group.
Smiths, Murphys, Lamberts, Kennedys, Shirley Hoover.



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.**

