



# Videmus Omnia

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

**NEWSLETTER** **JANUARY 2022**

### 55<sup>TH</sup> WING ASSOCIATION BIRTHDAY BALL 9 APRIL 2022

Plans are underway for a 2022 **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** hosted event celebrating *“The Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth”* 82<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, and recognizing the unit’s **55** years headquartered at Offutt AFB. The **Association** is very pleased to once again support the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** by revitalizing its long-held Birthday Ball tradition.

The event is a great opportunity to bring the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing’s** active duty/alumni family and supporters together for professional fellowship and an historical celebration. The 2022 Birthday Ball will be held the evening of Saturday, 9 April 2022 in Omaha, NE.

Several related activities will take place throughout the near-time, and it will all culminate with the Birthday Ball reception dinner.

More details will be forthcoming as they are developed, and will be sent far and wide by FLASH messages and any means necessary.

Mark the date and stay tuned!!

Spy V



### 55<sup>TH</sup> WING REUNION and COMPASS CALL 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY “The OLD PUEBLO ROUND-UP & RENDEZVOUS”



### 55<sup>TH</sup> WING ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETING and 2021 REUNION RECAP

13-17 October 2021, Tucson, AZ

*Submitted by President Joe Spivey*

#### **BoD Meeting: Wednesday, 13 October 2021.**

- The meeting convened and was called to order by President Joe Spivey.
  - A quorum was not available.
  - ZOOM/telcon was not used due to technical/facilities/quorum limitations.
  - All discussion action/ topics were tabled for future consideration/vote, as needed.



- Attendees included: Spivey, **Ricky McMahon, Michael Cook, Mo Krishna, Val Dugie, Ham Kennedy** and **Bill McKechnie**. It was decided to keep status quo with regard to officers status until next meeting, as needed.
- After above was discussed, officers were called upon for updates:
  - Joe:
    - Welcome
    - Coming events: Museum Dedication (TBD), **Wing** B-Day Ball (o/a 9 April 2022)/mini-Reunion.
    - BX: **Denny Haun** in charge, supplies depleted, re-ordering from Jo Don's (Bellevue). Looking at shirts, caps, ties, coins, sweater, and other items.
    - Donations for Reunion, Museum bench, Riggs monument. Need to get corporate requests submitted in December for follow-on year contributions.
    - Need to renew **55th** lapel pins (Erwin's) orders.
  - Val (Reunion OPR):
    - Reviewed key reunion events/timelines, dress and rules for each.
    - Agreed to provide synopsis of BRAT support for future possibilities.
  - Ricky (VP):
    - Discussed BoD composition possibilities.
    - Ideas included: Regional representation, Omaha presence, ECG participation, GS members for **Wing's** active-duty reps, Emeritus members as advisors only; skinny-down numbers for ops efficiencies, etc.
    - Agreed to lead an IPT with Bill M to present recommendations at future BoD meeting.
  - Michael (Treasurer):
    - Reviewed budget bottom-line/take-aways.
    - **Association** is comfortably solvent.
    - Recommended possible increase in Fisher House donation from \$500.
    - Working possible new **Association** blazer/pocket flash for consideration.
    - Wants to look at possibility of **Association** sponsoring an USAFA Sqd.
  - Mo:
    - 470 active members .
    - Sign-ups continuing at registration desk.
    - Proposed way to automate/enhance membership database, yet protect privacy adding functionality for years in the **55th**, aircraft flown, assigned units and more. May incorporate elements of the **Association** website to free up Jim M workload/function. TBD. Will do more research and report to BoD later.
    - Reported on-line renewals are working well—still needs some tweaking.
    - Lifetime membership remains under review—will report later.
  - Ham:
    - No HoF inductees nominations (as yet) from 2020.

- Potential Excellence Trophy nominee supported by **Wing/CC** (Ryan Hansen, PA—who honchoed all photo support for Riggs building, briefings, museum and more. More to follow.
    - If complete, can present at **Wing B-Day Ball** in Spring 2022.
  - Session adjourned and members went to buffet dinner. Invited any members milling in lobby to join in. Had about 40 do so.
- **Reunion comments:**
  - Thursday, 14 October:
    - Arrival, check-in, registration: BRAT, Mo, Spivey.
    - Received flowers for registration desk and all 14 tables from friend of Moores' son.
    - Welcome reception that evening with Museum brief by Spivey.
    - Attendees included **Congressman Bacon**, OG/CC and ECG folks.
    - Opening of the hospitality room.
  - Friday, 15 October:
    - **55th ECG Open House** at Davis-Monthan AFB
      - EAL worked at registration.
      - Included RJ/EC statics, ECG Sq tours, statics, local food (Hawaiian, BBQ, Philippine) trucks and lots of Sq SWAG for sale.
      - No mask hanger event with **Wing CC/OG/ECG** Commanders and Bacon.
    - Pima Air Museum TourS
    - **55th Wing Association All Call.**
      - Spivey kicked off **Wing/CC** intro.
      - Followed by OG/ECG CC.
      - **Unclassified mission briefs**
    - **Wing** Commander's Welcome Dinner.
      - Southwestern buffet.
      - **Association** + ECG.
  - Saturday, 16 October:
    - ECG Golf Tournament—approx. Four from **Association.**
    - Old Spanish Fort (Presidio)—most of **Association** went.
    - **Membership meeting**
      - Mostly covered BoD meeting topics.
      - Call for next reunion ideas included Dayton, Omaha, C-Springs and Souda Bay
      - Joint **Association** /ECG alumni Dinner
        - Pima Air Museum.
        - 275 attendees.
        - **Wing/ECG CC** kick off
        - Congressman Bacon (former **55 Wing/CC** and ECG crewdog) as speaker.
        - Wife joined him—both bussed in/out with **Association.**



- Sunday, 17 October
  - Departures for home.
  - Wine tour to Sonora (no status?).

Take aways

- Approx 100 **Association** /spouses/family attended. 163 bodies total with ECG troops.
- Need Val/BRAT “hot wash”.
- Hospitality room open each evening; popular spot.
- Sold all but seven in-stock **Association** polos.
- **Wing** PA provided photographer throughout event—need to figure out how to send the huge number available—maybe in “Yearbook” fashion.
- **55<sup>th</sup>** ECG now feels more like part of the **Wing**.
- Full time support—including same hotel/busses—from **Wing** /OG CCs.
- Business casual dinner events were enjoyable.



*Second row, far left, is 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander Kristen Thompson (dark shirt) next to Association President Spivey. Congressman Bacon and Angie are in front row, fifth and sixth from the right. The rest of the goodly group rests and poses during one of the tours.*



## GREG COLEMAN, MASTER FLORIST

**Greg Coleman** is the owner of a florist shop in Tucson. He comes from an Air Force family and is a long time friend and former neighbor of Max and Carol Moore, and very good buddy of their son, **Patrick**.

When he learned of the **55<sup>th</sup>** reunion, of his own volition, and at no cost to the committee or BRAT, his shop provided the large bouquet for the registration desk and centerpieces for all 14 banquet tables.

His generosity was very much appreciated and acknowledged by President Spivey.





## VETERANS DAY CEREMONY AT THE RIGGS BLDG

The **Association** held a wreath presentation ceremony on 10 November 2021 at the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** monument in front of the **Colonel William E. Riggs Building (55<sup>th</sup> Wing HQ)**.



President Joe Spivey made welcoming and introductory remarks. **Major Chaplain Kevin Humphrey** gave the invocation, and Board Member **Mo Krishna** read the original Armistice Day proclamation.

As the monument honors everyone (past, present, future) who served in the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth**, **Spy V** then recited the units from the **Wing's** storied history. **Dan Jenson** rang the **55<sup>th</sup> Ceremonial Bell** after each unit was named. Board member Max Moore (wearing his class A blues he had not worn in 36.5 years), then presented the wreath.

The ceremony closed and the party moved to a reception in the museum at the north wing of the Riggs building.

Among others who attended were: **Colonel John Litecky**, **55<sup>th</sup> Ops Group Commander** (who was acting **Wing CC** since the CC and CV were off station), **Jim Thomas**, **Jose Zambrano**, **Mike Hoskins**, **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Historian John McQueney**, **Mark Schenck**, **Carlton Knight**, and **Michael Hartman**.

*(Photos by 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs)*



## 55<sup>th</sup> WING CELEBRATES 55 YEARS AT OFFUTT

On 13 November 2021 at the Warhawk Community Center (formerly the Patriot Club, and what was the original Officers Club) the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** held a celebration social even to commemorate the unit's **55** years at Offutt AFB after moving from Forbes AFB, KS.

The official commemoration date was 16 August 2021, but due to COVID restrictions, mission requirements, etc., the event was delayed. In fact, this was the first official 'large' social function by the **Wing** in well over two years. Yet, it still had to be scaled down and with limited attendance. It was actually 'sponsored' by the Offutt Top Three organization.

A social hour with a wine and beer bar commenced the evening, followed by an opening narration and a catered dinner. All the 'help' were **Wing** member volunteers.

The program began with **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander Kristen (KT) Thompson** making welcoming and opening remarks about the purpose of the occasion.

Following were each group commander commemorating the **Wing's** past and defining their unit's mission, organization and operations:

**55<sup>th</sup> Communications Group**, **Colonel Larry Fletcher**; **55<sup>th</sup> Electronic Combat Group**, **Colonel Michael Cundiff, Jr.**; **55<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group**, **Colonel Donny Bagwell**; **55<sup>th</sup> Medical Group**, **Colonel Christopher Backus**; **55<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group**, **Colonel Jasin Cooley**; and **55<sup>th</sup> Operations Group**, **Colonel John Litecky**.

**55<sup>th</sup> Wing Vice Commander Colonel Mark (Chili) Howard** then celebrated the **Wing's** and host community's joint future. A closing narration wound up the program.



As mentioned, the ‘party’ was limited to about 50 personnel, the majority of whom were **Wing** senior staff and assorted active duty types. **Wing** Protocol had the call on a ‘select’ group of ‘dignitaries’ and several **Association** members were invited.

President Joe Spivey, Past President Jim Thomas, **Former Wing Commander Steven Stevens** and his wife, **Suzanne**; Board members Mo Krishna and Max Moore; **Ben Ungerman** represented Congressman Bacon as his Omaha chief of staff; and **Mike Haskins** were among **Association** members attending.



*Balloons and the excellent combo.  
(Photos by 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs)*



## COBRA BALL WREATHS



*This holiday season the memorials in front the 45<sup>th</sup> RS building were included the Wreaths Across America program in veterans cemeteries and other honored places.  
(Photo from Spy V.)*



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTORY

## Association Business/Policy/Issues:

### **President Joe Spivey**

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### **Vice President Ricky McMahon**

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E-mail: potomacpistol@gmail.com

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E-mail: Michael.Cook@cox.net

### **Secretary Trish Seinwill**

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### **Membership Chair:**

#### **Mohan Krishna**

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### **Newsletter Editor Max Moore**

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### **Webmaster Jim Maloney**

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### **Awards Chairman Hamilton Kennedy**

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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, Bill McKechnie. Active Duty Representative: Colonel David Priesman.**

### **Appointed Ass't Membership Chair**

#### **Jon Adams**

13704 Wallace Drive  
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

E-mail: jonathan.adams.1979@gmail.com



## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 20 January 2022, the treasury had an account balance (rounded) of \$55,000.

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 2024 (or more) are prorated and spent through the ensuing years.

Although the **Association** is solvent, we have expenses, obligations, and bills to pay, such as this newsletter, the postage and projects on the burner.

We do have a budget.



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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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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There were 428 members in good standing as of 15 January 2022, compared with 413 on 20 August 2021. Uptick indicates new members and renewals keep coming in, but recruiting is a never ending need to keep the **Association** viable.

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

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

Occasionally, this initiative has a payoff of exposure for the **Association**, and new active duty members to the organization, now at 19.

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## RECRUITING MEMBERS TO THE ASSOCIATION

This is the life blood to sustaining the **Association's** membership.

Lapsed members returning, new sign ups of folks who have not belonged in the past, etc.

When anyone recruiting new members, for those potentials who ask questions ; here are some tips to point out to those who have concerns about joining:

- 1) **No meetings** except at reunions. Alleviates concerns of time and commitments.
- 2) The **Association** has **no HHQ to answer to**: no quotas, no required reports up channel, etc.
- 3) We usually have **no problem filling** officer slots, BoD or committees. Newbies often 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. (Newsletter, web site, et al.)

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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 to keep up with your dues.**



**Dues are due in January of the calendar year after member's expire with a grace period of 31 March before going delinquent.**

If you are still not sure of your dues expiration date, to inquire on same, please e-mail to **Membership Chairman Mo Krishna** at [volvomo@gmail.com](mailto:volvomo@gmail.com), or drop him a note at the address noted in the directory on page 7 to get an update on your membership status.

**Address your concerns to Mo.**

**The newsletter editor is not responsible for the membership dues date.**

*When in doubt, send money. It will be credited toward future years.*

**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 and widows are dues exempt.**

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

**55 Wing Association, Inc.,**

**PO Box 13165**

**Offutt AFB, NE 68113**

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**Please help us stay current.**

**There is a membership/information update form at the back of this newsletter, as well as on the Association web site and through the app.**

**Please use that form any time you pay dues, and/or to report any address or other changes in your contact information.**

**That is the best way to ensure we have your latest information on file.**

**If there are no changes to your basic info, just be sure to check the veteran line and send it in.**

**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 ADDRESS  
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.

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## **ONLINE DUES PAYMENT APP**

*Contributed by Jon Adams.*

*Assistant Membership Chair*

To make **renewing or joining** the **Association** as convenient as possible, there is a website that accepts credit or debit cards as payment options.

One can renew/join with a one year or three year membership.

**To purchase/renew a one or three year membership: go online and follow the steps.**

Here are the directions to sign up online:

Go to this website: [\*\*55waonlinehelp@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:55waonlinehelp@gmail.com) (If you are using Microsoft Office, you might need to hold down the CTRL key and click the link)

Fill out the membership application on page 2 of the document and email to [55waonlinehelp@gmail.com](mailto:55waonlinehelp@gmail.com)

After you complete the steps, you will be good to go! If you have any questions, please let us know. [55waonlinehelp@gmail.com](mailto:55waonlinehelp@gmail.com).

*Please note: the Association does not issue membership cards. So, your canceled check or credit card statement is your confirmation.*

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## ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

### 55wa.org

The **55wa.org** revamped web site is operating smoothly and securely. A search box is provided to look for a name rather than scrolling through long lists on the TAPS, or dues date pages.

You can view the **55<sup>th</sup>** Cold War Memorial page in the Heritage section and find the location of your (or any other) patio brick.

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

**Jim Maloney**, the Web Guy.

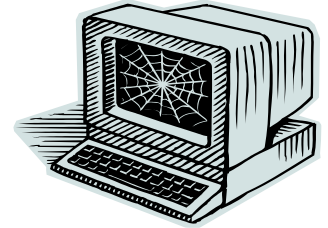
*Well it's been a year since I requested a volunteer to come forward and intern and replace me as 55WA Web-Guy. You guessed it... not a peep...*

*Rumor has it that Mo Krishna is planning a digital site to manage memberships and that may be the replacement in the future.*

*Also there is a Facebook group page you may be interested in named "55th Wing Association - 55WA".*

*You can check it out here, It is a private group page, so if interested in seeing current events and info, you can request membership. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2056651647835198>*

*When the current paid **Association** web site subscription expires, it will be history...comments?*



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## LETTERS AND STUFF

*"I can't get no satisfaction, but I try and I try"*

No words from the membership. Rare, but not the first time.

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## NEWSLETTER INPUTS

### ENCOURAGED AND 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](mailto:MaxMoore55@aol.com), preferably; or mail to the address in the Directory on page 7. We encourage and welcome any input.*

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*When events featuring **55th** members occur in **your area** (Florida, Texas, MD/VA/DC metroplexes, Denver/CSprings, California, Dayton, **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.

**We thank them all. Keep it up!**

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(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.**

Thanks, and **Videmus Omnia, Max.**

(Graphic by **Patricia Gros**, friend of the **Association**.) (Note: The graphic is dated, but then, so am I.)

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## OFFUTT RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Contributed by **Mark Schenck**

**55th Wing Flood Rebuild & Runway PMO**

Offutt’s history dates back to the late 1800s when it was Fort Crook Army post. The airstrip was completed in 1924 and was named for Lt Jarvis Offutt. The airstrip was still in use during the 1940s and received its first paved surface in 1941 to support the Martin Bomber Plant during World War II.

Once the Air Force was established in September 1947, Offutt became an Air Force Base; the runway was extended and repaved in the 1950s. Since that time, significant runway repair projects were conducted in 1983, 1995, and 2006. Those repairs were projected to extend the runway’s use by 20 years.

On 1 March 2021, Offutt’s runway was closed for reconstruction and the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**’s flying missions moved to Lincoln Airport during the full-depth replacement of the runway, 41% of which was 50 years+ old at the time.

After tearing out the old runway and portions of the Mass Parking Area (MPA), construction crews completed just shy of one million cubic yards of earth-work during site preparation. In August of 2021, paving commenced ahead of schedule. Upon completion the contractor will have poured more than 92,000 cubic yards of concrete, plus almost 60 tons of asphalt.



*From the east end. Looking west by north. Martin Bomber Plant (Bldg D) to the far right. Taken 10 January 2022. (Photo by Schenck.)*



Currently, runway work is in a winter shutdown. When the concrete and asphalt work recommence (late March/early April 2022), the runway project is expected to be 60% complete and on schedule for the aircraft and the missions to return to full operations in September 2022.

Nearly 100 years after the initial airstrip was completed, the current construction will include full-depth concrete end sections, asphalt center section, asphalt shoulders, new lighting system and selective repair/replacement of the MPA.

The **55<sup>th</sup> Wing's** new 2022 runway is built to last another 50 years.

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## EC-135C RESTORATION JANUARY 2022

Please visit the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum's Facebook site to read about updates, and to make any comments/feedback directly to the Museum. The Museum's Facebook site is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=strategic%20air%20command%20%26%20aerospace%20museum>

The Museum still needs more members interested in preserving the history of SAC. More funds are needed to prepare exhibits that will tell the public about the significant contributions of the SAC ABNCP in winning the Cold War, and to tell the story of the persons assigned to fly on or support the ABNCP. Funds are also needed to establish a fund for future maintenance of aircraft 049 and its exhibits.

You can join, or renew memberships, at <https://sacmuseum.org/join-give/membership/>.

Your donations may be sent to: Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum, Attn: Development, c/o EC-135C, 2821 West Park Hwy, Ashland, NE, 68003; or online at: [SACMuseum.org/donate](https://SACMuseum.org/donate).

**Please specify that the donation is for the EC-135C project.**

The Museum still needs all the assistance it can get to prepare exhibits of a professional quality commensurate with the importance of the SAC ABNCP's position in SAC history.

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# TAPS



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**ENGLISH, Judith C.**, 83, 12 December 2021, Papillion, NE. Widow of **Robert (Bob)** who passed in September 2011. He was a long time **55<sup>th</sup>**er, navigator in RB-47s and RC-135s at Forbes AFB, KS, Kadena AB, Okinawa, and Offutt AFB, NE.

**GAUNT, Lynn**, 80ish, December 2021, Grass Valley, CA. Widow of **John** who passed June 2014; another navigator in RCs at Kadena and Offutt with staff tours in Vietnam and at Beale AFB, CA.

**KAYSCH, Thomas S.**, 75, 3 December 2021, Gilbert, AZ; wife of 53 years, **Barbara**. Tom was a pilot who flew EC-135 Looking Glass missions, then recon in RC-135s with the 343<sup>rd</sup> circa 1970-80s at Offutt. He had a Vietnam tour flying C/UC-123 Ranch Hand missions. Retiring after 21 years in 1989, he flew with America West and US Air for another 18 years.

**MOORE, Ronald J.**, 82, 20 September 2021, Omaha, NE; wife, **Lois**, married 62 years. An Iowa native, Ron was an EC-135 pilot in the 2ACCS at Offutt in the 1970s.



**THOMPSON, James D.**, 80, 14 November 2021, Papillion, NE. Entering the service in 1963, he was a trained bomb/nav and had multiple assignments, including a Vietnam tour in 1970. His last year in the Air Force was in the **55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing** at Offutt in July 1990 as Deputy Commander of Resources. He retired in August 1991, then taught chemistry in Papillion-LaVista High School for nine years.

**PIXLEY, Sandra C.**, 87, 26 September 2021, Omaha, NE. Sandi was married for 61 years to **John**, who passed in February 2016. He was an RC EWO and staff officer in the **55<sup>th</sup>** at Offutt in the 1970s. Sandi taught private piano and voice lessons at home. She was a member of the Omaha Music Teachers Association, Omaha Symphony Chorus, and United Methodist Women.

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*Please note that the cause of death is rarely stated in these issues even if known, except in unusual circumstances, such as accidents of various kinds. For the third issue in a row, **not one** is attributed to COVID-19.*

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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 **55<sup>th</sup>** history, they will be remembered.*

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

**The date of demise, age, location; and if known, connection to the 55<sup>th</sup> - base, time frame and Air Force specialty (i.e.: 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 **55<sup>th</sup>** family who have passed beginning in 1996.

Anyone who wishes to have the name of a family member, friend, or comrade who was a former member of the **Fighting' 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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## ASSOCIATION BX

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The haberdashery is now under the management of **Dennis Haun**. He has established a new vendor and inventory of items for the membership.

Major changes and additions have been made to the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** "BX".

"Checklist" containing guidelines for placing orders and making payments will be updated and added to the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association BX** Web Page.

Questions/Comments please contact Denny Haun at papahaun@cox.net.

(Photo by Moore)



The BX now has available to **Association** Membership:

Long Sleeve **55<sup>th</sup> Association** ¼ Zip Pullovers

White, Royal Blue, Red, Navy & Grey. (S-XXXL). Cost \$43 + Shipping(TBD).

Short Sleeve **55<sup>th</sup> Association** Polos

White, Red, Royal Blue, Grey, Dark Navy. (S-XXXL). Cost \$40 + Shipping(TBD).

Long Sleeve **55<sup>th</sup> Association** Shirt

Red, White, Navy Blue. (S-XXXL). Cost \$63 + Shipping(TBD).



*Short sleeve polo*

*Long sleeve pullover*

*Long sleeve button down-shirt*

**55<sup>th</sup> Association** Hats 20oz.

Navy Blue, Red, Grey (Adjustable).

Cost \$20 + Shipping(TBD).



**55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** Hot/Cold Tumblers Blue.

Cost \$30 + Shipping (TBD).



*(Item Photos by Haun)*



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

The pins are sold to **Association** members all over the country. They are particularly evident at **55<sup>th</sup>** reunions and at official and social functions at and near Offutt (when held).

Gents and ladies, the pin makes a great birthday or anniversary accessory gift, or holiday stocking stuffer. Classy but not expensive.

*(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, 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.**

The former owner, the late **Frank Kumor**, was a long time member and ardent supporter of the **Association**. His daughter, **Rebecca Zurcher**, is now the proprietor.



## BIG SAFARI REUNION

SAN DIEGO, CA  
20-23 APRIL 2022



Reunion and hotel registration details, plus the entire schedule of events can be found at the BSA web site: [bigsafariassociation.org](http://bigsafariassociation.org). Several interesting speakers and programs are lined up at a great venue in an exciting city..



### TUCSON REUNION ATTENDEE LIST

This roster was provided by BRAT and includes 55<sup>th</sup>'ers and COMPASS CALL alumni for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering.  
(Rank is included only for active duty personnel when known)

AARON, Daniel and Anthony Walker  
 ALLEN, Sean and Jacqueline  
 BACON, Don and Angie  
 BESENIK, TW and Deborah Beggy  
 BLUE, Chris, Angie, Tony G., Becky J.  
 BORGATTI, Richard and Christine  
 BROOKIE, James and Marilyn  
 CHEN, LtCol Carl and Sarah  
 CISSELL, Leo  
 COOK, Michael  
 COOPER, John  
 CUNDIFF, Colonel Mike and Meghan  
 DALE, John and Marilyn  
 DAUBER, Wayne and Bev  
 DOHERTY, Robert  
 DUB UY, Hank and Sandra  
 DUGIE, Val, Valerie and Stephanie Taylor  
 EDDINS, Douglas and David  
 FELDKAMP, Alan and Sandy  
 FELIX, Gabriel, Alanna and Briseis  
 FITZPATRICK, John and Barbara  
 FLYNN, Collin and Donna  
 GAY, Michael  
 GERY, Will and Christine  
 GILLOGY, Steve and Liz  
 GRINDLE, Gary  
 HEITZMAN, Bill and Patricia  
 HUNGERFORD, Larry  
 JOHNSON, Major Trevor and Major Emily Brawn  
 KENDLER, James and Kathleen

LARISH, Jason  
 LEWIS, Traiq  
 LITECKY, Colonel John  
 LOHMEYER, Mark  
 MADDOX, Bill and Jane Anne  
 MARLIN, Bo and Ann  
 MCCORMICK, Robert and Avon  
 MCFALL, Craig and Kris  
 MCINTYRE, Josh and Dr. Cheryl  
 MCKAY, Ian  
 MCKECHNIE, Bill  
 MCMAHON, Ricky. Cary; Ken and Amy Davis  
 MENSCH, Sawyer and Hillary Taylor  
 MILLER, Kipley, Doug, Sandy, Sylvia  
 MOYER, Paul  
 MURPHY, Terry and Kathy  
 NELSON, Steve and Heather  
 NEMEC, Jerome and Cynthia  
 NOLL, Roger  
 NUSSBAUM, Dick and Barbara  
 OGDEN, William  
 POPELKA, Stephen and Suzanne  
 POTTER, Pamela  
 RAY, Richard  
 RICHARDSON, Chris  
 RIVERA, MSgt Kevin and Melissa  
 ROBINSON, Pamela and Amy Eubanks  
 SAENZ, Roland and Kathy  
 SANDEFUR, Joe E.  
 SHANLEY, Joe and Joanne  
 SIMPSON, Paul  
 SINGSAAS, Joshua and Andrea  
 SINISCALCHI, Joe, Kim and Lauren



KENNEDY, Ham and Pat  
 KNEIER, Jason  
 KIGHT, Larry and Consulo  
 KOCOUREK, Elden and Erin  
 KRISHNA, Mohan  
 LAKE, Ernest  
 LAKE, James and Mary  
 LAMBERT, Cliff and Kay

SMALL, Clayton  
 SMITH, Alan and Marty  
 SMITH, Gary and Patty  
 SMITH, David  
 SPIVEY, Joe  
 STEVENS, Steve and Tom Miller  
 STRANBERG, Bill and Ann  
 TAYLOR, Chuck and Gwen  
 TAYLOR, James and Susan  
 TEAGUE, Rick  
 THIBODEAUX, Wes and Anna  
 THOMPSON, Colonel Kristen  
 SHUMATE, Jon  
 TILDEN, Donald  
 TOUSSAINT, Hank  
 VAN SLYKE, Kate and Marion  
 WADDELL, Tom and Sharise  
 WILSON, James  
 WILSON, Rich and Susan  
 WOLFE, Dave and Irene  
 ZIMMERMAN Andrew and Chelsea  
*Total: 163 warm bodies (mostly).*



*The hospitality room was a popular place to gather.*



## REUNION PHOTO ALBUM

*All the reunion ictures by **MSGT Bryan Holm, 1A8, Rivet Joint and COMPASS CALL**  
 On assignment from **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs.***



*President Spivey holds forth at the membership meeting*



*Val Dugie reviews the reunion event details*





*Colonel Thompson regales the troops.*



*Sunny day at the Museum*



*Ham Kennedy, Alan Feldkamp, Gary Smith*



*RC-135 tour*



*Spivey explains the rebranding of the 55<sup>TH</sup> Wing HQ (Bldg 500) to the Colonel William E. Riggs Bldg.*



*Colonel Thompson reviews the 40 year history COMPASS CALL.*



*L-R: Ann Marlin, Donna Flynn, Bo Marlin, Collin Flynn, Lauren, Kim and Joe Siniscalchi.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## WHO SHOT WHAT

Graphics from Clip Art, and organization and public web sites. Photos not previously attributed: 55<sup>th</sup> pin by Moore.

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Ten Commandments are **not** multiple choice.*

*If you want your dream to come true, don't oversleep.*



# Videmus Omnia



**55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association, Inc.**  
(Formerly – 55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (Contact Information 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 55<sup>th</sup> Strat Recon Wing? \_\_\_\_\_

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



Are you a current or former member of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing? \_\_\_\_\_

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



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

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

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

Return this form with dues, if applicable  
**(\$20 per year or \$55 for 3 years)\***

to:  
**55<sup>TH</sup> WING ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**P.O. BOX 13165**  
**OFFUTT AFB, NE 68113**

\* Note – Expiration date of **NEW MEMBERS** only joining after 1 Oct extended to 31 Dec of following year  
\*\* Note – Dues expiration date – 31 December  
\*\*\*Note - Questions? **Contact Mohan Krishna, Membership Chairman, at [volvomo@gmail.com](mailto:volvomo@gmail.com), or at the above mailing address,.**





