

# Videmus Omnia

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



### NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

#### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Fightin' Fifty-Fifth Family*, Greetings from the Great Plains!



Though alumni living here painfully know, and those who don't, can likely remember, nothing pegs an American flag like a Midwest wind! We

certainly have had more than our fair share of pegged flags in 2022.

Despite the local, sustained gales, your **Association** has experienced several "fair winds and following skies" moments since the last Max missive (*VO newsletter*, January 2022).

Between the Christmas 2021 and New Year's 2022 holidays, your **Association** hosted a Holiday OPEN HOUSE Reception in the new *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth Wing* Museum (in the Riggs 55<sup>th</sup> HQ Building (#500)). The event was well-received, attended by 30+ alums and active-duty who enjoyed their "first view" of our vaunted heritage.

Additionally, it was the initial roll out of our new merchandise line managed by **Denny Haun** using Jo Don's as our local producer. Of course, more about that later.

Our collective heritage was again on display when the BIG SAFARI Program Management Office (PMO) decided (due to COID restrictions) to relocate their January 2022 Executive Program

Review and UK RJ Senior Steering Committee to Offutt vice OCONUS. Chalk up one more social

event for your museum with even more attendees including Congressional staff, flag officers, **Wing** leaders/staff, GP/SQ commanders, the RC-135 Community at large, and more.

The museum is quickly becoming an unofficial gathering site for jaw-boning, bragging and reflecting on past accomplishments. For a "Reader's Digest" overview of it, please access at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/829793/55th-wing-mission-relevance>

An on-going **Association** BoD challenge for several years, was to re-establish the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* Birthday Ball initiated decades ago (1979) by **Reg Urschler**. This year's theme was: *Reigniting the Flame*.

I am pleased to say WE DID IT! Notably, we also pulled it off financially, "in the black"!! You'll see more of that success later in this newsletter; but kudos to Hall of Fame inductees; as well as, Excellence Award and Palm Trophy winners recognized during Heritage Week.

Many thanks go to ALL who made it happen, attended and linked up to renew friendships. Hope to see even more of "us" next year!

Your BoD was also challenged this year to contribute to Nebraska's Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation (NVVMF). To assist NVVMF fund raising and honor our many alumni from that era, the BoD voted to contribute \$5000 toward the memorial scheduled to be completed in March 2023 on the officially-recognized Golden Anniversary of US/Indochina hostilities ending.

Additionally, the **Association** conducted a NVVMF fund-raiser raffle on Birthday Ball night, highlighted by a USAF camo-version AR-15 and other door prizes bringing \$1500+ more to help complete the effort. Our contributions were sufficient to be recognized in the overall memorial with a “**55<sup>th</sup> WING ASSOCIATION**” bench with the Vietnam War year, 1966, indicating when the *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth* relocated to Offutt. Many thanks to those who made those donations possible; but even more so to our alums who served, in so many ways, during this conflict.

I want to close with a final poignant challenge because of those who attended the Ball: Cherish our service memories and friendships. With the years-long gap in **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Birthday Balls, several alums have taken their “Final Flight”. Illnesses prevented many from attending. Mobility restrictions made some unable to be there. Travel woes.

If you were among those, for whatever the reason, on behalf of the entire **Association**, know this: **YOU WERE MISSED!**

*Videmus Omnia,  
Spy V*

\* \* \* \* \*



*This goodly group posed on 29 December 2021 at the Museum social.*

*L-R (sorta) Chris Canada, Mo Krishna, Spy V, Tiny Wolfe towering over Max Moore. Mark Schenck behind him. 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Vice CC, “Chili” Howard (in camos), Steven Stevens, Denny Haun, Jim Maloney, Ham Kennedy. Standing in rear: Dan Peterson, Jim Thomas and Mike Hoskins mostly obscured.*

*(Photo provided by Moore.)*

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*If you had to identify in one word, the reason why the human race has not, and will never achieve its full potential, that word would be ‘meetings’.*

*Dave Barry, Humorist.*

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## **55<sup>th</sup> WING BIRTHDAY BALL RETURNS 9 APRIL 2022**



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

The **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association**, under the leadership of President Joe Spivey, planned, organized and executed the 39<sup>th</sup> celebration of the origination of the *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifty* on Saturday, 9 April 2022, at the LaVista Conference Center. **It was a 100% 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association production.**

The event theme was *Reigniting the Flame*, signifying returning to the **Wing** tradition begun in 1979 and continuing through 2016.

A **Wing** Birthday Ball gap occurred, due to a series of unfortunate circumstances, wherein the Offutt AFB-wide Air Force Balls run by the Offutt Top 3 Association in 2017, 2018, and 2019 (which had elements of **55<sup>th</sup>** included) were held. There were no large **Wing** official or social events in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID restrictions.

This Ball, small in numbers by comparison with previous years, was due to contributing factors: such as not being an active duty **Wing** function, and the late-lifting of COVID restrictions. The Ball still reignited the tradition as a festive, fun gala for the 240+ who attended and lingered as long as possible.

The 2022 Ball something of a mini-reunion with the crowd estimated at about 50-50 alumni and active duty. Out of towners came from Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, South Dakota, Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, Virginia, et al.

Spy V emceed the proceedings which began with welcoming remarks, the presentation of the colors and an invocation by **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Chaplain LtCol Kevin Humphrey**.

The *Flame* symbolic candle was lit by **Colonel Kristen (KT) Thompson, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Commander and **Alex Vehbin**, an Omaha Central High School sophomore and commander of the JROTC's JV drill team, who along with his family, were among personal representatives/guests of Reg Urschler at the Ball.



The lighting was followed by the ringing of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Ceremonial Bell by **Association** Board member Mo Krishna as the unit's lineage was chronicled by President Spivey.

The traditional cake cutting was accomplished by "the most senior person (chronologically)" attending, which this year fell to Max Moore.

As he and Colonel KT were about to make the initial slice, she pulled away and Max went solo with the saber

slash without injuring himself or others.

After an absolutely superb dinner and short break, the program continued with the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Hall of Fame presentations, and the announcement of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** Award for Excellence recipients. *(All covered in separate articles.)*

Colonel Thompson provided her comments regarding the tradition and the evening's event, before President Spivey closed out the program.

As mentioned before, many of the attendees, alums and active duty, remained to continue to mingle and visit, not departing until the venue staff practically had to turn out the lights.

Notable **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** staff attending: Colonel KT, Vice Commander **Colonel Mark Howard** and wife, **Shannon**; Operations Group Commander **Colonel John Litecky** and wife **Nan**; Medical

Group Commander **Colonel Chris Backus** and **Sarah**; Communications Group Commander **Colonel Larry Fletcher** and **Christy**; Maintenance Group Commander **Colonel Jasin Cooley**; and **Command CMSGT Bryan Tuman** and **Vicky**.

Former wing commanders **Steve Stevens, Dan Peterson, Don Bacon**; former Command Chiefs **Vicki Swingle**, and **Rich Casey** with wife, **India**, attended. **State Senator Rita Sanders** and her husband, **Rick**, were there.

Hall of Fame members in attendance were: **Hank Dubuy, (Sandra)**; Stevens, **Michael Cook, (Tina)**; **Joe and Kim Sinislachi**, Denny Haun, **(Cheryl)**, Max Moore **(Carol)**, **Rich Holsinger**; in addition to the three new inductees: **BGen/Congressman Don Bacon (Angie)**, **Golda Eldridge, Sr., (Nancy)** and **Jim Turner**.



*L-R: Bacon, Eldridge, Turner, Col Thompson*



## BALL COMMITTEE

Your **Association** successfully "stepped into the gap" to ensure the annual **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Birthday Ball was finally re-established as a **Wing** social function after five years without this "meaningful" unit heritage event.

**Association** President Joe Spivey chaired the Ball committee, which was committed from the git-go, to making the gala a fun, fun, fun event.

Joe was ably assisted in the effort by dedicated committee members: Mo Krishna (Program/Event Agenda), Mark Schenck (Convention Center Coordination/Dinner Planning), **Grace Diaz** (Registration/Seating/Publications/Decorations), Michael Cook (Financials), **Andrew Agner** (Advertising), **Mark "Ski" Borytsky** (Protocol),

Ham Kennedy, (Awards Chair), Mike Hoskins (*Tales of the 55<sup>th</sup> Chair*); Denny Haun (BX sales/Table décor), Max Moore (Heritage Advisor).



L-R: Front: Haun, Diaz, Cook, Moore.  
Back row: Spy V, Krishna, Hoskins, Schenck.  
(Others were MIA on picture day.)

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## AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE 2021

The **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** Award for Excellence awardees are: **Ryan Hansen** (retired USAF) and Chief of **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Public Affairs, who helps immensely with all the **Wing** does—and most recently with the **Association's** Museum establishment.



*Association Board member and Awards chairman Ham Kennedy presents Hansen with the plaque at the Ball.*

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The second awardee, **SrA Manning Kuboushck**, **55<sup>th</sup> SFS**, was selected from a list of annual **Wing** award competitors.. the best of the best. He earned this recognition for his selfless service, including saving a person's life.



*SrA Kuboushck receives his plaque from Association Vice President Ricky McMahon at the Ball.*

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## FRIDAY 8 APRIL EVENTS

**55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Heritage Weekend kicked off on this date. **Association** President Joe Spivey opened the festivities about 1230 welcoming a large crowd of alumni, spouses, guests and active duty troops to the large hangar east of Base ops at Offutt.

Colonel Kristen Thompson rang the **55<sup>th</sup> Ceremonial Bell** to officially begin the event.



Immediately after that, the current attending members of the Hall of Fame rang the bell in turn: Steve Stevens, **Hank Dubuy**, Michael Cook, Ricky McMahon, Denny Haun, and Max Moore.

Spy V then segued to moderating the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Hall of Fame induction ceremony of three new members. He recited the accomplishments of each inductee and Colonel Thompson presented their plaques.

All three inductees spoke to the audience regarding the honor, and had their turn at ringing the bell.

# HALL OF FAME 2022

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## BrigGeneral (Ret) Donald J. Bacon

BrigGen Don “Bits” Bacon’s military career included command tours in the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**, **55<sup>th</sup> Electronic Combat Group**, **41<sup>st</sup> Electronic Combat Squadron** and the **41<sup>st</sup> ECS (Iraq)**. “Bits” served as an Intelligence Officer, Flight Evaluator, Mission Crew Commander, Master Navigator and Electronic Warfare Officer in COMPASS CALL, COBRA BALL, RIVET JOINT, and USN MERCURY TACAMO.

Don was a Mission Crew Commander, Flight Commander, Chief of Stan/Eval, Executive Officer, Operations Officer, and Chief, **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Protocol. He commanded the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**, 9 March 2011- 28 June 2012.



Following USAF retirement, BrigGen Bacon was elected three times (2016, 2018, 2020) as US House of Representatives Congressman (Nebraska 2<sup>nd</sup> District), becoming a senior member on the House Armed Services Committee (HASC). In this capacity, Congressman Bacon’s work on the annual National Defense Authorization Act is immeasurable.

Don’s successful advocacy increased **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** funding, platforms, programs, capabilities, modernization and operations. Bits personally led WC-135 rehost modernization; EC-130H transition to the new EC-37B, Offutt AFB runway replacement, and 2019 flood recovery.

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## LtCol (Ret) Golda T. Eldridge, Sr.

LtCol Golda Eldridge’s entire USAF operational career was in reconnaissance with **55<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wings (SRW)**, and the Pentagon’s Joint Reconnaissance Center (JRC)..

Golda’s pilot assignments included R/EB-47, RC-135 fleet variants, R/EB-66 and SAC’s Command Support Aircraft (Casey 01).

Notably, Eldridge supported **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** Libya-based Tell Two telemetry sorties, Forbes AFB to Offutt AFB relocation; Southeast Asia combat operations, and precedence-setting COMBAT SENT/COBRA BALL missions.

LtCol Eldridge spearheaded an innovative, in-house **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** pilot upgrade program. His renowned training success had Golda instrumental in rewriting flight manuals, training regulations, and operating procedures for SAC SRWs.

Due to his instructor pilot acumen, he was assigned to Eielson AFB, AK; later commanding Det 1, 6<sup>th</sup> SRW (Shemya) where LtCol Eldridge was instrumental in boosting mission success, unit morale and maintenance efficiencies.

On Joint Staff, Eldridge enhanced DoD’s crucial Reconnaissance Information Processing System.

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## LtCol (Ret) James F. Turner

LtCol Jim Turner performed brilliantly as an RC-135 crewmember, Program Manager (PM), Project Engineer (PE), Pentagon Action Officer (AO), Commander (CC) and Big Safari contractor. His operational and engineering legacy remains invaluable to **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** mission success for RC-135 and EC-130H operations.

Turner provided significant support transitioning Cold War reconnaissance assets into lethal force-multipliers for warfighters. As Tactical Coordinator (TC) on COBRA BALL/COMBAT



SENT, Jim fostered sensor upgrades resulting in never-before-seen intelligence.

As RC-135 PM/AO and COMPASS CALL Det/CC, LtCol Turner ensured the **55th Wing** was always DoD's "go to" unit for crucial intel and warfighting capabilities.

After USAF retirement, Jim became a key Big Safari contractor ensuring the RC-135 fleet had "industry best" capabilities for Combatant Commanders and the Intelligence Community.

Turner's exceptional engineering talents generated critical decisional analyses, technical documentation and studies to keep **55th Wing**-wide fleets viable for decades, ultimately saving the USAF billions of dollars.

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### PALM TROPHY PRESENTATIONS

**Mike "Coach" Hoskins** then took over to moderate and orchestrate the proceedings.

His opening narrative was the history of the 1 July 1960 Soviet shoot down of the 343rd crew of **Major Willard Palm** over

the Barents Sea, and how an award came to be dedicated in their honor.

The award is presented annually by the **55th** Operations Group to the flight crew that demonstrates the most outstanding performance during the year. Since there was no ceremony in 2021, two presentations were made at this event.



**Colonel John Litecky, 55th Ops Group Commander** (with his 'body guards') announces the *Palm Trophy recipients and their accomplishments.*

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### PALM TROPHY – 2020 (PATE 41)

RC-135, RIVET JOINT crew, call sign PATE 41, comprised of professional aviators from the 343d Reconnaissance Squadron (RS), the 95th RS the 488th Intelligence Squadron (IS), and the 97th IS is awarded the Palm Trophy for 2020.

On 15 June 2020, the crew demonstrated superior airmanship and tenacity while conducting sustained Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) operations as a part of the 21st Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron in the EUCOM theater of operations. Their dedication to the mission ensured timely airborne ISR coverage in support of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations as an Airborne Mission Commander (AMC), ultimately resulting in the recovery of one aviator.

The aircraft commander (AC) was **Capt Mark Hansen** (343 RS), Tactical Coordinator (TC) **Capt Breanne Gullickson** (343 RS), and **TSgt Joshua Balch** (488 IS), Airborne Mission Supervisor (AMS).

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## PALM TROPHY – 2021 (PYTHON 51)

RC-135V/W RIVET JOINT crew, call sign PYTHON 51, comprised of professional aviators from the 38<sup>th</sup> RS, the 343d RS, and the 97th IS is awarded the Palm Trophy for 2021.

The crew demonstrated superior airmanship and tenacity while conducting sustained Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) operations as a part of the 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (ERS) in the USCENTCOM theater of operations.

Their selfless dedication and service before self attitude ensured delivery of critical threat warning, target queuing, and humanitarian support efforts throughout the withdrawal of US and allied forces from Afghanistan, culminating in the successful Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) during Operation ALLIES REFUGE, and the final ex-filtration of remaining US military personnel from Afghanistan's Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul 30 August 2021.

**Major Jacob Malcom** (38 RS) was the AC; **LtCol J. Andrew Colson** (38 RS), TC. and **AMS SSgt Phillip Ball**, (97 IS).

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In a 'normal' year there would usually be three speakers, but with no *Tales* in 2020 and 2021, this was sort of a 'make up' with six speakers giving a variety of 'there I was' and **Wing** activities and mission statements.



**Major Brian Ross** gave an update on the Offutt runway reconstruction status and time line for reopening.



**Capt Patricia Urbick** explained the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing's** cyber defense operations plan in detail.



**Colonel (Ret) Mo Krishna**, a former 343 RS commander and Deputy Ops Gp CC, reiterated the history of standing up **55th** operations in Afghanistan immediately after the 9/11 2001.



**Major Eric Armstrong** witnessed the end of the Afghanistan operations and the refugee evacuation crisis. His *Tale* detailed the massive undertaking.

**Capt Christopher Rowl** provided an overall dissertation on the **55th Wing's** Information Warfare and Training Initiative.

*(Sorry, no photo, my bad, ED.)*

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## 55<sup>TH</sup> WING DESIGNATED AN AF LEAD WING

**Air Combat Command (ACC)** has designated **five units to serve as “lead wings”** as the Air Force looks to overhaul its force generation model and pivot to strategic competition with China and Russia.

The five wings will be designated to “rapidly generate combat power as a deployed force,” ACC commander **General Mark D. Kelly** said in a 5 January 2022 memo.

The five wings are:

- 4th Fighter Wing, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC.
- 23rd Wing, Moody AFB, GA.
- **55th Wing, Offutt AFB, NE.**
- 355th Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.
- 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home AFB, ID.

The lead wing structure has been discussed for more than a year. In the fall of 2020, then-commander of the 15th Air Force, **MajGeneral Chad Franks**, told reporters that the concept involved individual squadrons being assigned to wings, sometimes not the wing it normally reports to, and the wings training together in anticipation of

a large-scale conflict that would require massive deployments.

In May 2021, ACC established a task force to work on how the air combat forces would train prepare for a high-end fight. Part of the task force’s focus touched on the lead wing construct, folding it under the larger concept of agile combat employment in which multi-capable airmen deploy to remote locations in small teams to make the Air Force less vulnerable.

The lead wing concept “further refines Agile Combat Employment and Multi-Capable Airmen concepts,” Kelly said in his memo.

“This shift takes us from a reactive force optimized for counter-insurgency ops over the past 20 years in permissive environments, to wings ready to deploy as high-performing, task-organized combat teams, and operate in a contested environment with joint and coalition partners,” Kelly said in a statement.

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## COLONEL MARKS PROMOTION

**Colonel Gavin P. Marks’** promotion to brigadier general was announced in a 2 March 2022 release. He was the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Commander from 14 June 2019 to 22 June 2021.

He is the fifth consecutive former ***Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth*** leader to be so honored.

*(Before that, other commanders from May 1993 were BGs when they took command as the position was a one-star billet.)*

Colonel Marks’ current position is Director, Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Executive Action Group, Headquarters, United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, DC.

On behalf of the **Association**, President Spivey sent congratulations which Colonel Mark graciously acknowledged.

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTORY

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

**Bill Ernst, Jim Thomas, 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**

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## HOBERMAN RETIRES FROM ASSOCIATION BOARD

**Errol Hoberman**, a long time veteran EWO in the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW from the RB-47 days at Forbes AFB, KS, and in RC-135s at Offutt, has retired from the **Association** Board of Directors (BoD) effective 24 February 2022.

His dedicated service to the **Association** began in November of 1994 as a member of the Interim Steering Committee established to formalize what was a loose knit 'alumni association' into what has evolved over the years into the current **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association**.

That committee produced the Articles of Incorporation and initial set of Bylaws to provide a foundation of a viable, growing organization.

Errol was a charter member on the first elected BoD in September 1995, and served until his recent retirement. He served as treasurer from May 1998 to May 2008. During that period he was responsible for maintaining the membership data base, and for getting the issues of the newsletter to the printer and postal service.

He was awarded a Life Membership to the **Association** in May 2008 for those accomplishments.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 30 April 2022, the treasury had an account balance (rounded) of \$48,500.

A significant portion of the money in the account comes from dues paid in advance. Therefore, we must keep money in reserve for each calendar year to which the dues apply. For example, dues paid for years thru 2026 (or more) are prorated and allocated through the ensuing years.

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

We do have a budget.

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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 395 members in good standing as of 13 May 2022, compared with 428 on 15 January 2022.

138 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.

There are a number of members whose dues expired on 31 December 2021 and did not renew by the end of the grace period at 1 April. However, they are receiving this newsletter with hope they will see what dynamics the **Association** does, and is doing, and return to the fold.

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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, flash e-mails, 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 through 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**, or drop him a note at the address noted in the directory on page 9 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

*Well it's been over two years since I requested a volunteer to come forward to intern and replace me as 55WA web-guy. You guessed it... nada.*

*Unless there is a major occurrence, the 55wa.org site will go dormant as of 22 June 2022.*

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

*Mo Krishna envisions 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".*

*Jim Maloney, the Web Guy.*

*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>*

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## LETTERS AND STUFF

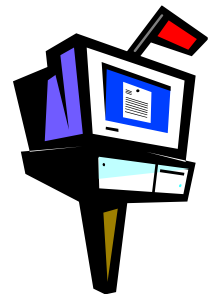
\* \* \* \* \*

### A TWO MAN 55<sup>th</sup> REUNION

*Contributed by Frank Schoonover*

Two veteran crewdogs reunited for the first time after an eight-year hiatus. **Richard Clark** and **Frank Schoonover** met in March when Schoonover made a stopover in Papillion, NE, where they enjoyed reminiscing about their six years flying together in RB-47's and RC-135's, and later as staff officers.

Clark came to the 55<sup>th</sup> at Forbes AFB, KS, right out of pilot training in 1954, and Schoonover in 1964 after three years with the Air Rescue Service and six years in B-47 bombers. Both were assigned



to the 38<sup>th</sup> SRS and later to the 343rd SRS. Clark was upgraded to aircraft commander in 1964 when Schoonover joined his crew as the navigator.

While undergoing their readiness training, a crew and aircraft were lost in Turkey. Clark's crew training was abruptly cancelled and they were assigned as replacements to Incirlik AB, Turkey.

Schoonover remembers commenting to Clark at the time that they must have been pretty good to have their training halted and named as replacements. He also recollected Clark's response as "No, we were the most expendable."

The duo had numerous tours to Det 4 (Incirlik) flying Tell Two missions, as well as flying the gamut of other 55<sup>th</sup> worldwide commitments for the next two years.

In March of 1964 while in Turkey, Schoonover got a call from his ops officer asking if he'd be willing to change crews and be the first of the 55<sup>th</sup> navigators to transition into the new RC-135s, an assignment that he jumped on.

A few days later, he received another call saying that his intended AC was ineligible for the transfer and did he think that Clark would want to go in his place. Making a command decision, he said yes, and a few days later they returned to Forbes and shortly left for Castle AFB, CA, the very first of the 55<sup>th</sup>ers to make the transition. Also the first crew to be assigned to the **Wing's** new location at Offutt AFB, NE.

At that time the **wing** headquarters and squadron buildings were still under construction and they worked out of a trailer on the flight line. They were also tasked with getting a new model aircraft ready for its missions, the RC-135E, which was soon delivered from Texas.

Most of that summer was spent flying missions out of Hickam AFB in Hawaii and later up north working out the bugs. For the next year-and-a-half they alternated flying the -135C, -135E and EC-135 Looking Glass.

All good things come to an end. In 1968 Schoonover was transferred to the 6<sup>th</sup> Strat Wing at Eielson AFB, AK. Clark followed in 1972 where the two were reunited as staff officers.

They have met over the years at 55<sup>th</sup> reunions, the last one being about eight years ago. Unfortunately, both of them have lost their wives (**Thelma** and **Hilde**, respectively) so this reunion

was bittersweet. Nevertheless, they enjoyed reliving their times together in the **Fighting Fifty-Fifth**.

\* \* \* \* \*

Joe and the **55th** team:

Sandy and I wanted to say thanks for the effort put into a great **55th Wing** Birthday Ball. We had a wonderful time and we thought the events were a success from the standpoint that they helped keep many of us connected to the **Wing** we love.

The Saturday underground tour by Coach Hoskins was special for me since I had four years roaming Bldg 500 trying to keep the many flag officers there happy. And, the history room and recon bar are just fantastic. There is obvious creativity and hard work on display at both locations!

The Saturday dinner (at the Ball) was also really well done and we both appreciated the opportunity to be seated with active duty 55<sup>th</sup> folks, and again keep the connections with them going.

This summer, working with my neighbors **Rich Trentman**, **Mace McElhaney**, and others, we hope to get the many 55<sup>th</sup>ers in the Colorado Springs area together and to encourage their involvement in the **55th Wing Association**. (*See Reunions*)

Working with Colonel Thompson and her staff, I hope to present an RJ model (an older one I have two of) to the USAFA Cadet Sqd 11 in the near future. In case you are unaware, Cadet Sqd 11 has a long-time association with the **55th Wing**. It is a good opportunity to "recruit" future aviators for the **Wing** and eventually, the **Association**.

Finally, just FYI, on behalf of the AF Cobra Ball crewmembers (Scone 92), I will host the Navy P-3 survivors of Alfa Foxtrot 586 for a COS 45th-anniversary reunion of that rescue on 26 October 2023. More on that as the date gets closer.

VO, **Al Feldkamp**, Monument, CO  
(*From an e-mail 14 April 2022.*)

\* \* \* \* \*

## **GUESTS/FRIENDS OF REG URSCHLER AT THE BALL**

*Contributed by **RAFU**, Founder of the  
55<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ball in 1979.  
18 April 2022*

**Steve Jordon** retired from The Omaha World-Herald after 51 years as a reporter and editor,

including 10 years writing a weekly column about Omaha investor **Warren Buffett**. His father, USAF **Colonel (Ret) Harold K. "Ken" Jordon**, was a B-24 co-pilot in England during World War II, taught ROTC at the University of Michigan during the Korean War, served with the Strategic Air Command as director of personnel, vice base commander at Offutt AFB, NE, and as vice commander of the refueling wing at Kadena AB, Okinawa, during the Vietnam War, among other jobs. (Ken served with Urschler during some of those assignments.)

Steve's mother, **Jane Merrill Jordon**, was a model Air Force wife who raised three sons during Ken's absences and, upon Ken's retirement, exercised her right to decide where they would live -- Venice, Florida

**Helen Jackson Jordon** came to Omaha with her family in 1950 when her father, **Eugene Jackson**, started at a new job with the fledgling Strategic Air Command (SAC). A civilian scientist, Jackson remained at SAC as Chief of Science and Technology, Operations Analysis, married nearly **55** years ago, after which she was an artist for commercial printers and, for more than 20 years, a volunteer for the Nebraska AIDS Project. She's a desktop publisher, including the twice-yearly newsletter of the 8th Air Force's 466th Bomb Group Association, honoring Ken Jordon's WW II unit.

The Jordons, both board members of that association, are the parents of **Ingrid**, a botanist with the University of Wisconsin, and **Leland**, a retired US Marine and IT contractor in Baltimore. Their spouses are **Brandon** and **Jin**, respectively. The Jordons' granddaughter is the multi-lingual **Mabel Thaden**, an art major at Reed College in Portland, OR.

Steve and Helen consider these next four people to be family, as does Urschler. **Alexey Krasnoslobodtsev** (pronounced kraz-no-slow-BODT-sev, known as Dr. K) is a native of Siberia, Russia, with degrees from Novosibirsk State University and New Mexico State University. He is associate professor of bio-medical physics at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and is doing research in developing biosensors for early detection of cancer. He teaches biological and

medical physics and physical pharmacy, among other courses.

His wife, **Enkela Vehbiu** (pronounced N-KAY-lah vay-BYOU), is founder and producer of New Americans Media, the Omaha online news source specializing in immigration issues. She also is Enrichment Parental Liaison for the Omaha Public Schools' English as a Second Language program, teaching parents how to navigate the school system and America.

A native of Dures, Albania, and former TV anchor person at the capital of Tirana, she met Alexey while completing a master's degree in political science at New Mexico State. She agreed to move to Nebraska once she learned that the band U2 would perform a concert in Omaha.

Alexey and Enkela are naturalized U.S. citizens. Their sons are first-generation Americans. **Alex Vehbiu** is a sophomore at Omaha Central High School and commander of the JROTC's JV drill team. He plans to play piano with Central's jazz band next year, is a member of the golf team, and is scouting out the Air Force Academy. **Nick** is a seventh grader at Lewis & Clark Middle School in Omaha, plays trumpet and hopes to attend Duke University to study mathematics. Both boys have black belts in karate.



## COLD WAR MEMORIAL SPRING CLEAN UP

*Contributed by Perry Peloquin, Bellbrook, OH.  
3 May 2022*

Your **55<sup>th</sup> Strat Recon Wing Cold War Monument** got its pre-Memorial Day 'shower and shave' this week. You will be pleased to know that the stray weeds were pulled, the grass edged and trimmed, and the benches are bird-turd free.

The memorial stands ready for the summer onslaught of USAF museum visitors.



*Before the clean up, moss on patio and untrimmed grass. (From rear.)*



*After hose down of entire memorial and ground work. (From front.)*

As for the USAF Museum, they have a whole slate of events to celebrate the USAF's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including the arrival of a KC-135 for display at the air park.

Inside, they have added special displays.

When you do visit, don't miss the new IMAX 3-D D-Day film narrated by **Tom Brokaw**.

Well worth it!

\* \* \* \* \*

## 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.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*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!*

\* \* \* \* \*

*(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.)*



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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.

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

## EC-135C RESTORATION

APRIL 2022

EC-135 #049 DAY

(Museum release 22 March 2022.

*Edited by Moore.*)

After 6 years and over 32,000 volunteer hours, the interior and exterior restoration of our EC-135 "Looking Glass", #63-8049 is nearly completed.

While there is still work being done on the wings and engines, the aircraft has been restored to its former glory and sits proudly in Hangar B at the Museum.

Now, we are opening the aircraft to give the public an opportunity to see this titan of the Cold War.

The constantly airborne command and control post provided a clear message to the Soviet Union, no matter what you do, we're always here.

Join us on Saturday, April 9, 2022, from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm for this rare opportunity to go inside the EC-135 and learn about the critical role it played in the Strategic Air Command fleet in "Preserving the Peace."

Our Curatorial Team and volunteers will give brief tours of the aircraft interior and share stories of its history.

Regular admission applies and reservations are not needed for this event. Tours will be limited to approximately ten minutes to allow for as many guests as possible to view the aircraft.

Details: <https://www.sacmuseum.org/events/member-breakfast-049/>

To learn more about the EC-135, visit: <https://www.sacmuseum.org/what-to-see/aircraft/ec-135-looking-glass/>

\* \* \* \* \*

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 stories of the personnel assigned to fly on, or support, the ABNCP. Funds are also needed to establish an account 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.

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

The Museum also 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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## 55<sup>TH</sup> WING GRAPHIC ARTIST RECEIVES DoD AWARD AGAIN

Joshua Plueger, 55th Wing Public Affairs, was recognized as Department of Defense Civilian Graphic Designer of the Year. This is a trifecta – three years in a row! Hoo-rah!!



The announcement was made by **Brigadier General Patrick S. Ryder**, Director, Public Affairs, Department of the Air Force, on 12 May 2022.

Here is a quote from his boss, **Ryan Hansen**, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs chief: "This is three

DoD wins in a row for Josh, so I believe he's cemented his claim as a **55th Wing** icon at this point."

This young man is more than just an artist. His body of work has been prevalent for several years designing logos, programs, and posters for the **Wing** Birthday Balls; posters for Offutt Air Shows; an untold number of posters and publication covers for a multitude of significant **Wing** events.

\* \* \* \* \*

*The best vitamin for making friends....B-1*

*The problem with the gene pool is, there is no life guard.*

# TAPS



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**BRASHEAR, John A**, MajGen, 91, 9 April 2022, Roswell, GA; wife of 67 years, **Lois**. Gen. Brashear was born in Pittsburgh, PA, on June 5, 1930. A US Naval Academy graduate, he was commissioned in the Air Force in 1954 and earned his wings in 1955. Following pilot training, he served with the Strategic Air Command (SAC) flying air refueling aircraft. In 1961, and he participated in the conversion of the KC-135 to a reconnaissance platform. He subsequently served in several bomb unit assignments, and later commanded the 14th Air Division, Beale AFB, CA, and was Vice Commander of 15th Air Force, at March AFB, CA. His final two assignments were as Director of Operations, then Chief of Staff, HQ SAC, at Offutt. General Brashear was a veteran of Vietnam where he flew 115 missions in the F-4E.

**BUGLEWICZ, Marianela (Candy)**, 86, 21 March 2022, Papillion, NE. Widow of **Francis J., Jr. (Fritz)**, a KC/EC-135 navigator and CSA staff member in the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** at Offutt AFB, NE, in the 1970s and mid-1980s. He passed in April 2013. Known to all as Candy, she was an Omaha native. The quintessential Air Force wife, she was devoted to her family, church, volunteering, and was a talented singer. She worked at Daniel Gross High School in Omaha as the front desk receptionist for many years.

**CALDWELL, James**, 88, 3 April 2022, Bellevue, NE., wife of 66 years, **Nancy**. Jim's tenure with the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** dates to the early 1960s as an RB-47 EWO at Forbes AFB, KS. He moved with the **Wing** to Offutt as an RC crew, had tours at Eielson AFB, AK, and RAF Mildenhall. He was a member of the Jimmy Jones' crew for the Barents Sea incident of Soviet MiG's firing on 17 November 1970. Retiring in 1978 after 23 years service, he worked in real estate for 25 years; was a devoted member of his church, a Rotarian and an avid golfer.



**FAIR, Elizabeth (Libby)**, 86, 9 February 2022, Snellville, GA.; wife of 68 years of **Roy**, an RB-47 EWO in the 343<sup>rd</sup> at Forbes in the 1960s. Another consummate Air Force wife who supported Roy and the family through numerous assignments. She was a mentor to other wives, an Officers Wives Club member, a Little League and Girl Scout volunteer. Libby later found her calling at St Jude's Hospital to work with abused children. She was frequently recognized for her dedication and compassion in that work.

**GATES, NED**, 8X, 30 April 2022, San Antonio, TX; wife, **Ruby**. He was an RC-135 EWO in 55<sup>th</sup> at Offutt, then on staff at Kadena in the early 1980s.

**KENNEDY, Patrick J.**, 88, 20 February 2022, Omaha, NE. From 1970 to 1973 Pat was in the 2ACCS at Offutt as an Emergency Action Team member on the airborne battle staff.

**MARBURGER, Donald T.**, 79, 8 May 2022, Rockwall, TX, married to **Marguerite** for 56 years. A Texas A&M grad, he was an EWO with 84 B-52 Vietnam combat missions. He served in RC-135s with the 55<sup>th</sup> at Offutt and in the 82<sup>nd</sup> at Kadena. After the Air Force he was a Program Manager with Systems in Greenville, TX, for eight years; and later became an elementary math teacher.

**PATTON, David L.**, 91, 6 April 2022, Papillion, NE; wife of 68 years, **Jean**. A Baltimore native, he enlisted in the Air Force before going to aviation cadets and earning pilot wings. He flew the U-2 for six years. David served as the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW Vice Commander at Offutt, July 1973-July 1975. As a brigadier general, he commanded the 43<sup>rd</sup> Strat Wing at Andersen AFB, Guam, and later, SAC's 4<sup>th</sup> Air Division, Francis E. Warren AFB, WY. His last assignment was commander of Civil Air Patrol. USAF, HQ at Maxwell AFB, AL, retiring in 1984. His second career was with American Airlines retiring again in 2001.

**RYAN, Robert L.**, 81, 31 January 2022, Floresville, TX, wife, **Nancy**. A native Texan, Bob was an EC-135 navigator in the 2ACCS at Offutt in the mid-1970s. He finished his AF career as a cost and budget analyst with AFTC at Randolph AFB, TX. His second career was as a PhD professor of statistics at the University of Incarnate Word until 2007.

**SULLIVAN, John L., Sr.**, 82, 13 March 2022, Bellevue, NE; wife, **Brenda**. Chief was an airborne radio operator on EC-135s in the 2ACCS at Offutt in the 1970s. He had tours in Vietnam (140 combat missions in C-130s and EC-47s), Japan, Italy, South Korea and the UK. In 1981 he was selected as the first commandant of the newly established **CMSgt of the Air Force James McCoy** Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership School at Offutt. He later worked for Wholesale Heating and Cooling Supply Co. of Omaha for 20 years.

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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.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**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. (*While it lasts.*)

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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**82<sup>nd</sup> REUNION (RESCHEDULE)  
ONE MORE TIME  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO  
7-10 JULY 2022**

In a message dated 2/22/2022 3:09:46 PM Central Standard Time, [macelhaney@comcast.net](mailto:macelhaney@comcast.net) writes:

**Hog Heaven alumni:**

**Ok time to try this again!!** This is the formal announcement of the 82nd Reconnaissance Squadron Reunion 7-10 July 2022 in Colorado Springs, CO.

After the 82d anniversary celebration of the 82nd Reconnaissance Squadron held at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, summer of 2019, we decided to have another get together somewhere in the US.

After some discussion we selected Colorado Springs as the location and due to COVID had to postpone twice until this year.

**WHO:** Mostly those who helped reactivate the squadron in the early 1990s, but we welcome any former or current members of the squadron as well as anyone connected with the RC-135 program

**WHEN:** 7 - 10 July 2022

**WHERE:** Colorado Springs, CO

**WHAT:** This will be very informal and only a few organized activities will be pre-planned leaving time for personal touring

**WHY:** Retell (or make up) war stories from days gone by

Please pass this on to anyone who may have an interest.

**Register on the reunion web site:**

<https://macelhaney.wixsite.com/82dreconnaisances>  
[qu](https://macelhaney.wixsite.com/82dreconnaisances)

Mace

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# ASSOCIATION BX

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Major changes and additions have been made to the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** "BX". Management is by **Dennis Haun**. He has established a new vendor and inventory of items for the membership.

Sales were brisk at the Tucson reunion and the recent Heritage events at Offutt.

The BX now has available to **Association** membership the following items:

Long Sleeve **55<sup>th</sup> Association** ¼ Zip Pullovers  
White, Royal Blue, Red, Navy & Grey. (S-XXXL). Cost \$43 + \$6.50 Shipping (\$49.50).

Short Sleeve **55<sup>th</sup> Association** Polos  
White, Red, Royal Blue, Grey, Dark Navy. (S-XXXL). Cost \$40 + \$6.50 Shipping (\$46.50).

Long Sleeve **55<sup>th</sup> Association** Shirt  
Red, White, Navy Blue. (S-XXXL).  
Cost \$63 + \$6.50 Shipping (\$69.50).



*Long sleeve button down-shirt*



*Short sleeve polo*



*Long sleeve pullover*

### 55<sup>th</sup> Association Hats

Navy Blue, Red, Grey (Adjustable).  
Cost \$20 + \$6.50 Shipping (\$26.50).

### 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association

Hot/Cold Tumblers Blue.  
Cost \$30 + \$6.50 Shipping  
(\$36.50)

*(Item Photos by Haun)*

Members wishing to purchase any of the above listed items please contact:

Denny Haun, 918 Oxford Circle  
Papillion, NE, 68046

Please make checks for the full amount of purchase to: **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association.**



NOTE: Procedures are being developed to use the accounting system "Square" for future on line payments. More to follow!

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

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### 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.

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### WHO SHOT WHAT

Graphics from Clip Art, and organization and public web sites. Photos not previously attributed: Most of the Hall, Palm trophy and *Tales*, cake cutting from Moore. Others and Ball pix by **Charles Hammond**, **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Public Affairs. *(One can tell the difference as Charles' are better quality.)* **55<sup>th</sup>** pin by Moore.

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### POTPOURRI

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*55<sup>th</sup> ladies at the Tales. (Yeah it was cold in that big hangar.)* L-R: **Ann Marlin, Pat Kennedy, Shirley Hoover, Carol Moore, Sandra Dubuy.**

*(Photo by Moore)*

\* \* \* \* \*



*Current 343<sup>rd</sup> RS commander LtCol Chad Backes (flight suit) braced by former head crows.* L-R: **Paul Jeanes (1998-99), Al Feldkamp (1988-90), Mo Krishna (2009-10) at the Tales.**

*(Contributed by Jeanes.)*



*Active troops mill about at the Tales.*

\* \* \* \* \*



*The 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Ceremonial Bell*

*The spirit bell courtesy of RB-47H crew S-67,  
343<sup>rd</sup> SRS, Forbes AFB, KS,  
via RAF Upper Heyford, UK, 1965.  
Cradle built by **Harry Tull**. 55<sup>th</sup> Legend,  
member of that crew.*

\* \* \* \* \*



*Colonel William D. Riggs Bldg,*

*55<sup>th</sup> Wing Headquarters (front entrance)  
Bldg 500 in process to be designated Bldg 55.  
(Formerly SAC HQ, then USSTRATCOM HQ.)  
(Three photos by Moore.)*



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OUT OF IDEAS AND FILLERS**

**DITTO**



# 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 **55th Strat Recon Wing**? \_\_\_\_\_

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

\* Note – Expiration date of **NEW MEMBERS** only joining after 1 Oct extended to 31 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.**

