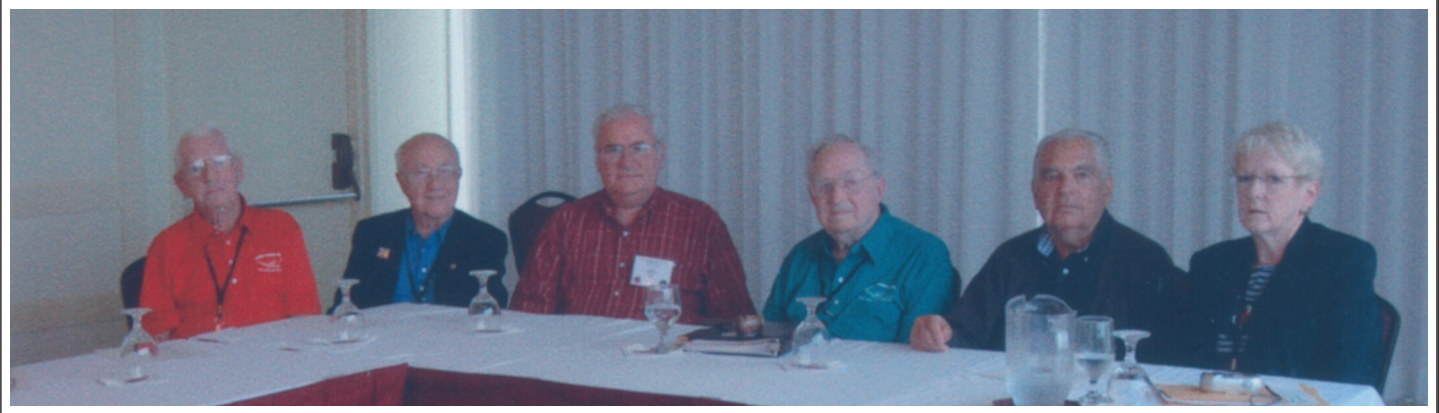


# Hell's Angels Newsletter

303rd BOMB GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION, INC.

November, 2005



**NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** of the 303rd Bomb Group Association's Board of Directors. L-to-R, Harold "Red" Timm, Secretary; Al Dussliere, Chairman of Past Presidents' Committee; Gary Moncur, Director of Internet Operations; Bill Cox, President; Eddie Deerfield, Editor of Hell's Angels Newsletter, Jean Cox, Treasurer. VP Admin Ed Gardner was not present.

## *An Honorable Ending and a New Beginning*

## **BOARD VOTES TO DISSOLVE ASSOCIATION AFTER 2007 REUNION IN WASHINGTON, DC**

### **Support Pledged To Formation Of 303rd Family Association**

The Board of Directors of the 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association, meeting last August at the reunion in Dayton, Ohio, voted to formally dissolve the Association on or about 31 December 2007.

The decision came as a result of the inevitable passing away of increasing numbers of 303rd veterans, steadily declining attendance at reunions, dwindling revenues from membership dues, health problems among the Association's leadership and a desire to bring the curtain down with dignity at a closing ceremony.

The Board pledged "unlimited support" to sons and daughters and other family members of 303rd veterans in encouraging their efforts to form a successor Association to carry on the traditions and sustain the history of the 303rd Bomb Group. Family members held preliminary discussions at the reunion on accomplishing this goal.

San Antonio was reconfirmed as the location for the reunion in 2006 and Washington, DC was approved as the reunion site for 2007. Permission will be sought for a ceremony "to retire the 303rd colors" at the World War II memorial on the Mall.

A proposal to publish a third volume of the Hell's Angels Newsletters was approved. The original two-volume set of books included every page in 86 issues of the newsletter from April of 1976 to November of 2001. The third volume would include all newsletter pages in 24 issues from February, 2002, to the final edition in November, 2007. Of the 500 sets of books originally published, 40 were presented to military, university, museum and community libraries as historical records. The remaining 460 sets became treasured family heirlooms.

President Bill Cox and his wife, Treasurer Jean Cox, will oversee meeting the many legal requirements and other commitments for dissolving the 303rd BGA.

Gary Moncur, the 303rd Bomb Group Association's Director of Internet Operations, will continue to produce the Group's impressive and innovative web site for years into the future, well beyond the lowering of the curtain on Association affairs.

The Association was incorporated in the State of Florida, and that state's Articles of Dissolution must be followed. The IRS tax code as it applies to tax-exempt veterans organizations will also apply.

If a successor non-profit Association is formed in the next two years by family members of 303rd veterans, the entire assets of the 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc. can be transferred to it. That's a dissolution target.

*(See From The President on page 16 and  
The Editor Comments on page 20)*

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Dayton reunion story—pages 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

San Antonio's many attractions as 2006 reunion site—page 3.

Archives "tug-of-war" ends with 303rd BGA victory—pages 4, 5.

Three "Hell's Angels" fund Heritage Museum projects—Page 6.

McCutcheon gets his DFC 60 years late—page 7.

Magyar then and now; a Pictorial Review—page 14.

303rd veterans tell own stories in Molesworth Diary—page 15.

Open Forum attracts 16 "letters to editor"—pages 17, 18.

Membership statistics and a newsletter appeal—page 19.



## 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc.

# Hell's Angels Newsletter

Editor—Eddie Deerfield

Vol. 29, No. 4 3552 Landmark Trail, Palm Harbor, FL 34684 November, 2005

The 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc. is a tax exempt organization under IRS Code 501(c)(19), chartered in 1977 in the State of Florida to perpetuate the history of the 303rd Bombardment Group (H) and to provide opportunities for 303rd veterans, families and friends to meet.

Because members are helping to perpetuate the history of the 303rd Bombardment Group (H), dues and/or donations to the Association are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Regular Members include persons assigned or attached to the 303rd Bombardment Group (H) from its 1942 activation in Boise, ID, through its war years at Molesworth, England, to its 1945 deactivation in Casablanca. Spouses, children, grandchildren and others related to regular members may become Family Members. Others interested in perpetuating the history of the 303rd and in furthering the aims of the Association may, with approval, become non-voting Associate Members.

In anticipation of the dissolution of the Association at the end of 2007, membership status was frozen as of August 23, 2005 at the level each member held on that date. That level will be maintained for the life of the Association, with no additional dues being required. New members will continue to be accepted, with the payment of a one-time \$25.00 dues/registration fee valid for the life of the Association.

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Editor Emeritus: Hal Susskind

## ELECTED OFFICERS — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

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## ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### 359th Bomb Sqd. Representative

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### 358th Bomb Sqd. Alternate

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## ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Continued)

### 360th Bomb Sqd. Representative

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Colorado Springs, CO 80915-2221  
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### 427th Bomb Sqd. Representative

Fred E. Reichel  
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TEL: (248) 852-2021

### HQ, 444th Air Depot Representative

Dale E. Ragle (Ann)  
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Simi Valley, CA 93065-3338  
TEL: (805) 526-4190

### Family & Associate Member Rep

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Lstoner@mobill.net

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### HQ, 444th Air Depot Alternate

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205 West 12th Street  
Wood River, NE 68883-9164  
TEL: (308) 583-2583

### Family & Associate Member Alt

Kathy Johnson  
14401 West Taylor Road  
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## APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

### Membership & Roster

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### Historian

*Position no longer required. 303rd BGA archives now at Mighty 8th AF Heritage Museum and history posted on 303rd website, with a reference team to respond to inquiries.*

### Group Advisor

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205 St. Charles Circle  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
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### By-Laws Committee

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TEL: (248) 852-2021

### World War II Awards

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**For a visit to the highly  
rated Website of the  
303rd Bomb Group  
Association, go  
online at:**

**www.303rdBGA.com**

### United Kingdom Representatives

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40 St. Catherine's Road, Kettering,  
Northants, England NN15 5EN  
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## Planning a trip to England and RAF Molesworth?

Persons planning to visit the base should contact UK Representative Robin Beeby and advise him of travel plans. Mr. Beeby will make the appropriate contacts and coordinate a visit to RAF Molesworth.

### CHAPLAINS — PROTESTANT

Rev. Warren L. Hedrick (Alma), 3 Andrew Avenue, Sanford, ME 04073-3149  
Rev. Robert L. Johnson (Mary), 2208 W. Granite St., Siloam Springs, AR 72761

### CHAPLAIN — CATHOLIC

Bishop Rene H. Gracida, P. O. Box 217, Tynan, TX 78391-0217



## THE HISTORIC MENDER HOTEL

**In downtown San Antonio, it's the reunion destination for the 303rd Bomb Group Association in 2006.**

**It's around the corner from The Alamo and less than five minutes from the city's famous River Walk.**

**It was first built in 1859 as a trail ride stop on the Texas frontier, and is now a modern 350 room hotel.**



# Great Hotel, Great City! Next Reunion in Colorful San Antonio

Next year, we meet in reunion in San Antonio, rated as one of the top ten cities in the United States for its variety and number of attractions for visitors. The dates are September 12 to 16, 2006.

And we stay at the historic Menger Hotel, itself a famous landmark in the city. The Menger was first built in 1859 as a 50-room hotel, a trail ride stop on the Texas frontier. Over the years, new wings were added, and it is now a modern 350-room establishment.

The special room rate offered to the 303rd BGA is \$99 per night for a single or double. That's remarkably low for a prime hotel in the downtown area.

The Menger is right around the corner from The Alamo and a few minutes away from the San Antonio river, with its popular walkway, tour boats and scores of restaurants.

In 1988 and in 1992, a massive renovation and restoration of the hotel was completed, including a new ballroom and meeting areas. Nothing was done, however, to diminish the ambiance and charm of earlier years.

Although much of the architecture, history, appointments and artifacts found at The Menger Hotel are of museum quality, it remains a public hotel as it has been since 23 years after the fall of The Alamo.

The Menger is so unique that guests staying at other hotels often visit to see the Victorian lobby, which reflects the 1909 remodeling in which famed architect Alfred Giles transformed the space into

the grand neoclassical style of the period.

The lobby is three-stories high, oval in plan, and dominated by eight Corinthian columns. A leaded glass skylight was added as part of the 1909 renovation, as was a decorative tile floor. Many of the pieces of art and furniture on display were believed to have been purchased in Europe by William Menger in the 1860's.

Guests at the hotel over the years have included Theodore Roosevelt, Mount Rushmore sculptor Gutzon Borglum and writers Oscar Wilde and William Porter, better known as O. Henry.



**THE ALAMO, where a small band of 189 defenders was wiped out in 1836 by a Mexican force of 1,800 soldiers.**



# Finally, the Archives Tug-of-War Resolved Heritage Museum Grants Proper “Deed of Gift” to 303rd BGA

It took the better part of a year, but the 303rd Bomb Group Association finally won resolution of a tug-of-war over ownership of its archival collection.

Last December, former 303rd BGA historian and archives custodian Harry D. Gobrecht informed the Association's Executive Committee, "I have legal advice that almost all of the 303rd BG (H) archive collection is my personal property—not that of the 303rd BGA, although I have always referred to the entire collection as the 303rd BG (H) Archive Collection."

This declaration surprised and angered Committee members. The controversy was further inflamed by an article in *The 8th AF News* which credited Gobrecht as donor to the Heritage Museum of the 303rd's archives.

The Executive Committee, on behalf of the 303rd's Board of Directors, refused to accept the Heritage Museum's "Deed of Gift" as submitted and signed by Gobrecht on 8 November 2004. That document included a paragraph stating that "Only the original photographs in 145 binders were property of the 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association." In addition, the document included a detailed list of items allegedly belonging to Gobrecht.

Acting 303rd BGA President Al Dussliere contacted Timothy Bottoms, who had replaced Michael Telzrow as the Heritage Museum's curator, and insisted that both the offensive paragraph and the Gobrecht list of items be deleted and a new "Deed of Gift" prepared, voiding the earlier document signed by the former historian.

A revised deed was submitted to the 303rd BGA by the museum official. Again, it was improper. It had eliminated the paragraph in question, but still contained the list which even included coffee cups and baseball caps.

The personal collections of Kermit Stevens, Walter Shaylor, Jim Reeves, Charles Merrill, Chappie Slawson and Raoul Prieto were part of the archives sent to the museum, yet there was no reference in the deed to details of their individual donations.

Dussliere again expressed to Bottoms his unhappiness about inclusion of the Gobrecht list. Finally, an acceptable "Deed of Gift" was received from the Heritage Museum. It is reproduced below and on page 5.



THE 303RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION'S archival collection, on the shelves and ready as reference tools at The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. The collection was donated in October 2004.



P.O. Box 1992 Savannah, GA 31402 tel 912.748.8888 fax 912.748.0209 [www.mightyeighth.org](http://www.mightyeighth.org)

The 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc., owns the property described below and desires to give said property to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. As Acting President, with the approval of the Association's Executive Committee, I do hereby irrevocably and unconditionally give and transfer to the museum all right, title, and interest, including all copyright, trademark, and related interests, in and to the following described property



I understand that the transfer of said property does not entail the granting by the Museum of special concessions or privileges to me, my heirs, executors, or administrators. I also understand that acceptance of these items does not necessarily imply immediate or future exhibition use. By signing below, I certify that I have read the terms of this deed and that the subject of this deed and that the subject of this gift is free and clear of all encumbrances and restrictions.

### Description of Gift:

**Items owned by the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc. and included in the 303<sup>rd</sup> BG(H) Archive Collection:**

1.) 145 binders containing:

(A) Original photographs and related pages from the 303<sup>rd</sup> BG(H) CD-ROM and Website <http://www.303rdbg.com> Includes: Combat Crews and B-17's of the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group (H); Mission information; Ground Support Personnel with related photographs and information; Prisoners of War, Group and Squadron diaries and combat mission stories, William F. Adams Wood carvings.

(B) Combat mission and 303<sup>rd</sup> BG(H) information. Includes: Strategic Bombing of Germany surveys and results; Index to 303<sup>rd</sup> BG(H) Federal Archive records in 17 File Cabinet Drawers; 303<sup>rd</sup> BG(H) Memorials; Reunion information; Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum; Past 303<sup>rd</sup> BGA Membership Directories; 8<sup>th</sup> AF Information; Magazine Articles; Thunderbird Web Page.

2.) Individual collections in the 303<sup>rd</sup> BG(H) Archive Collection that were donated with the express condition that they be transferred to Museum when other 303<sup>rd</sup> BG(H) Archive items are so donated. Includes personal collections of: Kermit D. Stevens, Walter K. Shayler, James F. Reeves, Raoul R. Prieto, Merritt O. "Chappie" Slawson, Charles K. Merrill and Harry D. Gobrecht.

3.) Personal Biography Questionnaires in File Cabinet Drawers 19 and 20.

4.) 303<sup>rd</sup> records obtained by 303<sup>rd</sup> BG(H) Volunteers from the National Archives at Suitland, MD and housed in steel file cabinet drawers:

(A) Combat mission folders – 364 missions (cabinet drawers 1 – 15).

(B) Accident Reports (cabinet drawer 16).

(C) Original written Missing Aircrew Reports (cabinet drawer 17).

[Note: For a more detailed listing see the Index of the Historical Archives of the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group (H), Eighth Air Force, Molesworth, England, October 1942 through April 1945.]

**In the event the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum ceases to exist, the above collection will be offered to the National Museum of the United States Air Force.**

By my signature below I accept the foregoing conditions and acknowledge reading any attached information.

This gift is given in memory of: *All the men and women who served in the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group in World War II*

Dated: 08-17-05

Donor/agent

Albert L. Dussliere  
Signed by Albert L. Dussliere, Acting President, on behalf of the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc.

Donor/agent

Date Received: 15 November 2004

Received by:

Timothy S. Bottoms

By: Timothy S. Bottoms  
Name

Curator of Collections  
Title

16 August 2005  
Date

**Note: This Deed Of Gift cancels and voids the Deed of Gift dated 10/15/2004 submitted by and signed by Harry D. Gobrecht on 11/8/6004.**

**THE DEDICATION OF THE SNAP! CRACKLE! POP! MURAL AT THE MUSEUM** was attended by members of the Wayne Fredericks family, a principal sponsor of the wall-sized art work.

Standing in front of a small section of the mural are Wayne's daughter, Maria, son, Bill, and widow, Anne.

Wayne, a 360th Squadron pilot, known as "Jake," died 18 August 2004, about nine months before the dedication.



## THREE 303RD BOMB GROUP VETERANS SPONSOR MAJOR PROJECTS AT 8TH AF HERITAGE MUSEUM

A huge wall mural artistically depicting the B-17 flight line at Molesworth... a new education center classroom...a new research facility. What do they all have in common?

Each was funded at The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum by a veteran of the 303rd Bomb Group.

**Molesworth Mural** is 20 feet high and 90 feet wide on a curved wall. It features the 360th Squadron B-17 *Snap! Crackle! Pop!* Other elements in the huge work of art are hangars and a number of B-17's in the distance.

The family of 360th pilot J. Wayne Fredericks donated the funds for the mural. He died on August 18, 2004. The dedication was on May 20, 2005.

Anne Fredericks, Wayne's wife, told the Hell's Angels Newsletter, "My husband, known as 'Jake' in his Air Force days, flew a brand new *Snap! Crackle! Pop!* from Kellogg Field in Battle Creek, Michigan, to Molesworth. He was in the 360th Squadron, and shared a hut with Lew Lyle. Wayne and his crew completed their 25 missions in that B-17."

The three Rice Krispies characters were painted on the nose by a Kellogg cereal company artist in Battle Creek.

*Snap! Crackle! Pop!* continued to fly with other crews aboard, and was shot down on a mission to bomb torpedo stores at St. Nazaire, France in January 1943.

**The Frank DeCicco Family Education Center Classroom** was dedicated on May 20, 2005.

DeCicco was a 427th Squadron waist gunner. He financed the 50-page Museum Education Manual, transparencies and video tape published by

Prentice Hall in collaboration with the Heritage Museum. It tells the story of the Eighth Air Force in World War II and explains why the war was fought.

Over 18,000 copies of this educational material has been distributed to schools and libraries throughout the United States.

The Frank DeCicco Family Education Center Classroom at the museum is used as the site for telling the Eighth Air Force story to grade school students from all over Georgia and the surrounding area.

Over 12,000 school children visited the museum in 2004. The 2005 attendance is running ahead of 2004.

Mr. DeCicco died on December 10, 2004. Family members attended the dedication ceremony. (See photo and caption below)

In January of 2005, **The Gobrecht Family Research Center Room** was dedicated, fitted with up-to-date audio and video equipment, printers, computers and other equipment for visitors doing research. Harry D. Gobrecht, former 303rd Bomb Group Association historian, was a pilot in the 358th Squadron.

The 303rd's archive collection, organized and maintained by Gobrecht, was donated by the 303rd Bomb Group Association to the Heritage Museum a year ago. It is the most complete collection of any Eighth Air Force Bomb Group.

**Jean DeCicco, her daughter, Angela, and Heritage Museum founder, Lewis E. Lyle, were at the Education Center dedication ceremony.**





# DFC FOR McCUTCHEON 60 years late!

(Excerpted from local newspaper accounts)

On September 9, 1944, after completing their mission of bombing an industrial target near Ludwigshaven, Germany, during the height of World War II, Army Air Corps pilot George McCutcheon and his B-17 bomber crew began to make their way across the German skies to the safety of their home base in England.

McCutcheon was looking forward to the traditional two shots of brandy he and his eight fellow crew members would share following their return.

The B-17 and the crew, though, met with enemy fire, losing two of their engines in the process. McCutcheon's plane, which normally held a cruising altitude of 22,000 feet, began to rapidly fall.

"We flew in across the front lines at only 1,500 feet and had to make an emergency landing at a field in France which only the day before had been occupied by German troops," McCutcheon explained.

The crew was reported missing in action by 303rd Bombardment Group (H) headquarters, and military officials had the unpleasant task of informing the men's families.

Five days later though, after completing repairs to their plane with parts salvaged from another nearby downed B-17, McCutcheon and his crew managed to fly the ailing aircraft back to the safety of their base.

Recognition for McCutcheon's heroism came about when he was contacted by a 303rd Bomb Group Association retired Air Force colonel (William Cox) on a mission of his own to track down Group personnel who deserved wartime awards but never received them.

Following the December 7, 1941 surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by Japanese war planes, the event which plunged the United States into the second World War, McCutcheon, a student at Michigan State University, quit school and enlisted in the Army Air Corps.

"It was something we had to do," he said. "Everybody was asking for recruits and it was just the patriotic thing to do."

Congressman Bart Stupak presented the medal to the 303rd pilot in a ceremony on the County Courthouse lawn in Gaylord, Michigan August 18, 2005 as George's wife, Irene, and family members and friends looked on. Also attending was Gaylord mayor Gladys Solokis.

"I can count on one hand all of the Distinguished Flying Crosses I've ever given out," Stupak said to the more than 50 people gathered for the occasion. "This medal is long overdue, 60-years overdue."

Stupak added that McCutcheon had joined a select list of DFC recipients, including Amelia Earhart and the Wright Brothers.

The 358th Squadron pilot was cited as distinguishing himself by "extraordinary achievement" on the Ludwigshaven mission, and displaying "outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty."



**THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS** was presented to George E. McCutcheon by Michigan Congressman Bart Stupak at a marble podium at the Veterans Memorial on the County Courthouse lawn on 18 August 2005. George's wife, Irene, was also at the podium. More than 50 persons attended the ceremony.

## THE CITATION ACCOMPANYING THE AWARD READ:

Lieutenant McCutcheon was on a bombing mission over the target, I. G. Farben Plant, as a major German industrial facility. There he encountered moderate but very accurate anti-aircraft fire that caused the immediate loss of two engines on the right side of his B-17 aircraft, while at 25,000 feet on the bombing run. Two sudden bursts of anti-aircraft fire were so strong that they caused his right wing to suddenly drop and the aircraft experienced an immediate loss of 3,000 feet.

Despite the crippling effects of his aircraft, Lt. McCutcheon's superb airmanship and his quick thinking allowed him to miraculously fly his plane out of the serious position they were in. After crossing the front lines, he made emergency landing with his crippled plane on a grass field, wheels down, thus saving the lives of his eight man crew and the Air Corps B-17 aircraft.



# REUNION IN DAYTON



**BILL COX, 358TH SQUADRON, ACCEPTS THE GAVEL OF OFFICE FROM OUTGOING ACTING PRESIDENT AL DUSSLIERE OF THE 427TH SQUADRON.**

The ceremony took place at the reunion banquet on Saturday 27 August. Cox was elected to the 303rd Bomb Group Association presidency at the General Membership meeting earlier in the day.

**THE DAYTON AREA PLASTIC MODELERS SOCIETY SET UP A MULTI-PLANE EXHIBIT AT THE REUNION HOTEL.**

Representing the Society were Steve McColaugh (center) and Mark E. Young (on the right). Walt Ferrari (on the left), the 303rd's Vice President for Reunions, made the exhibit arrangements.

The 303rd model aircraft on display included *Miss Lace* in front, *Thunderbird* in the middle and *Duchess Daughter* at the rear.



**A VISITING FRENCH CITIZEN WAS GIVEN A 303RD "SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD" FOR HIS DISCOVERY OF THE CRASH SITE OF THE B-17 *BEATS ME*, LOST ON 23 JANUARY 1943.**

Jean Charles Mace, in the center, received the award from Acting 303rd BGA president Al Dussliere. Standing by is Louis "Mel" Schulstad of the 360th Squadron, who arranged the presentation.

The B-17, on a mission to attack German submarine pens in St. Lorient, France, was hit in the tail section by a bomb from above and crashed near Pluvigny.





**THE 303RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION'S VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AF BASE WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAYTON REUNION.**

**Sitting on a bench under the nose of the B-17G *Shoo Shoo Shoo Baby* are (l-to-r) Calvin Hansen, 360th Squadron; Cal's daughters Sally Schlei and Sandi Cisler, and Elbert "Paul" Shell of the 444th Sub-Depot. Paul's son, Ernest, is behind him.**



**HARRY TRUMAN'S PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT *THE INDEPENDENCE* WAS ON DISPLAY. IT FLEW HIM TO WAKE ISLAND IN OCTOBER 1950 FOR A MEETING WITH GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE KOREAN WAR.**

**Leaving the Douglas C-118 after a walk through are, top to bottom, Don Stoullil, 359th Squadron Representative; his son, John, and Van White, 358th Squadron Representative.**

**FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT'S PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT, A DOUGLAS C-54C WHICH WAS NAMED *SACRED COW*, FLEW HIM TO YALTA IN FEBRUARY 1945 FOR A CONFERENCE AS THE END OF WORLD WAR II NEARED.**

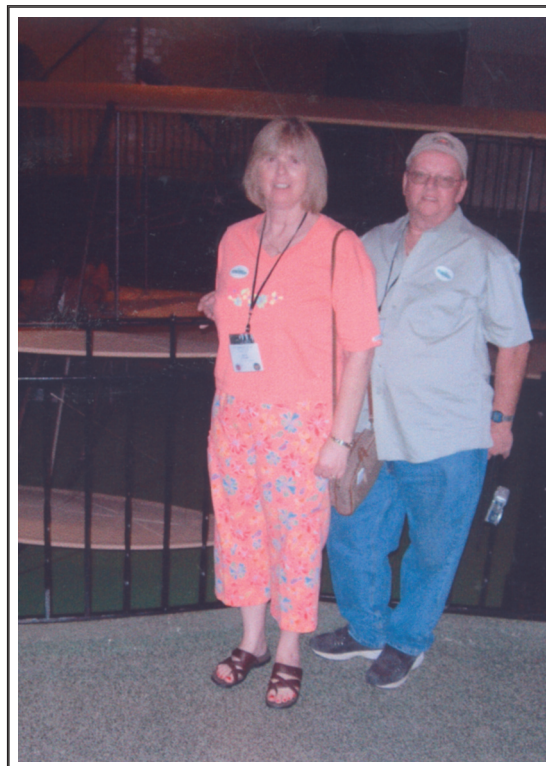
**Jack Bitter of the 427th Squadron and his wife, Jane, enjoyed a tour of the aircraft.**







**TWO HARDWORKING LADIES OF THE 303RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, Betty Kelley and Jill Miller, took on the registration responsibilities, with some assistance from Dayton Convention Bureau staff. In the top photo, Ruth Ferrari (back to camera), monitors the action as co-manager of the Dayton reunion.**



**THE WRIGHT BROTHERS AVIATION CENTER AT CARILLON PARK attracted Helen and Jim Strong. She's the daughter of the 359th's late Robert Lee Morgan.**



**TWO 303RD BOMB GROUP VETERANS who recently joined the Association and began coming to reunions form a new friendship.**

**"Ricky" Reider, on the left, 359th gunner, came to Dayton from his home in Mexico City. "Spec" Campen, 427th togglier, lives in Virginia.**



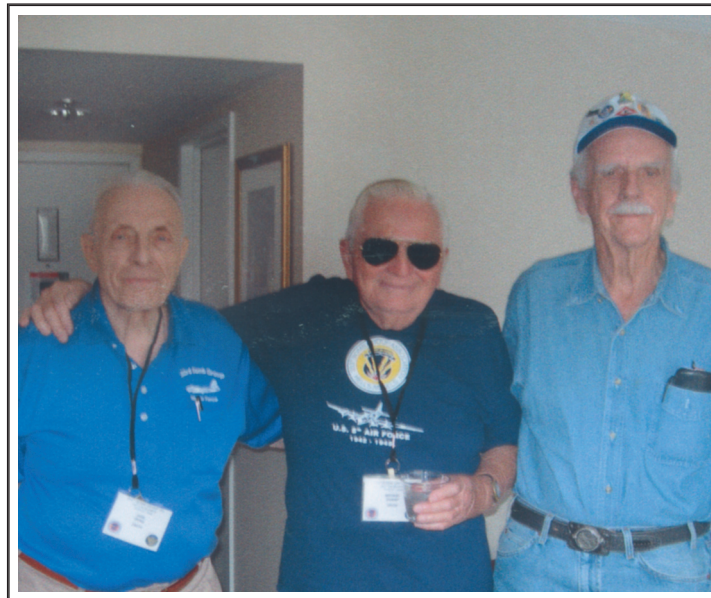
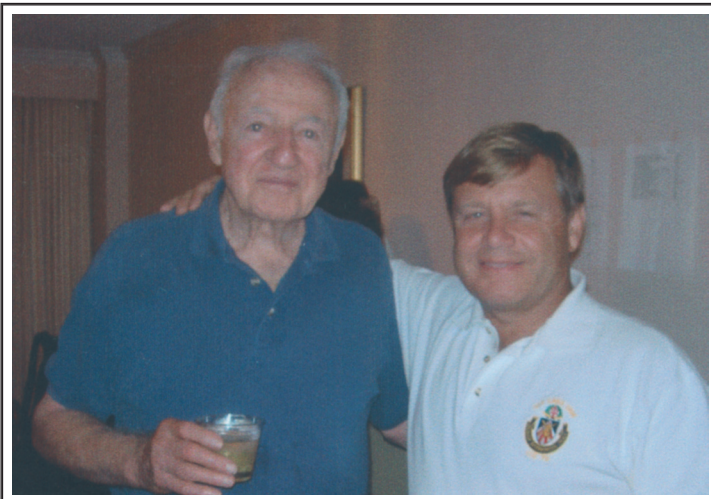
**CLIFF FONTAINE OF THE 427TH SQUADRON was accompanied to the Dayton reunion by his daughter, Dawn, and her husband, Danny Higgins.**





**FRANK NEUNER OF THE 427TH SQUADRON demonstrates that 303rd Bomb Group veterans are kind and caring husbands. He proves the theory by giving his wife's shoes a bright shine. It's not known whether or not Mary tipped him.**

**ANOTHER FATHER AND SON TEAM at the Dayton reunion—Bob Galbraith of the 358th Squadron and Rob enjoy a visit to the 303rd's Hospitality Room. It was the favorite watering hole for veterans and their family members.**



**THREE MORE OF THE 303RD'S FINEST SAMPLE THE LIBATIONS AT THE GROUP'S WATERING HOLE. From left to right, Don Geng and Bryant Sharp of the 359th, and Carl Dubose of the 427th.**

**THE 360TH SQUADRON'S LEE FAULKNER, IN THE LEATHER JACKET, AND HAROLD "RED" TIMM WORKED LONG HOURS as bartenders in the Hospitality Room. Lee was re-elected the squadron's Representative and Red as his alternate. There's no known connection between the election results and their services to "happy hour" customers.**





# MEMORIAL SERVICE

AT THE DAYTON REUNION—TO HONOR THE MEMORIES OF THOSE WHO FELL IN WORLD WAR TWO  
AND THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON SINCE VICTORY IN 1945 (PHOTOS BY GARY MONCUR)



**VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS** assembled for the 22nd reunion memorial service of the 303rd BGA.



**EDDIE DEERFIELD**, master of ceremonies, called for the posting of the colors by the WPAFB Honor Guard.



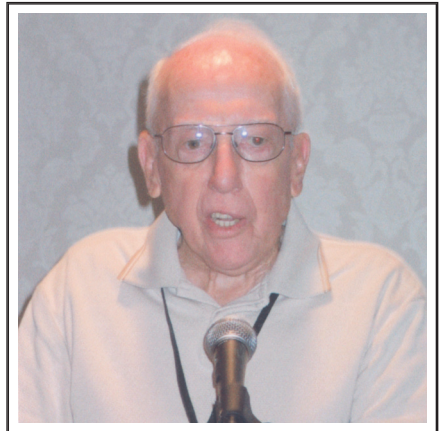
**BISHOP RENE GRACIDA**, 359th gunner and engineer, gave both the invocation and the benediction.



**JOHN NEWMAN**, 359th gunner and engineer, read his poem about a leather jacket on a Molesworth fence.



**CAROL SAGE**, daughter of 360th pilot George Kyle, paid tribute to veterans and spoke of her dad's wartime crash.



**DALE RAGEL**, 444th Sub-Depot B-17 engine mechanic, read *The Crew Chief's Lament* about a lost air crew.



**WILLIAM McLEOD III**, son of 358th pilot Bill McLeod, spoke of his late mother Alice's devotion to the 303rd.



**JILL MILLER**, wife of 360th pilot Ed Miller, read Rachel Frith's poem about the deep meaning of reunions.



**HAROLD TIMM**, 360th tail gunner, spoke the names of the 303rd's honored dead since the last reunion.



**SIXTY YEARS LATER, THE 359TH SQUADRON'S JOHN NEWMAN REVEALS HIS INNERMOST THOUGHTS IN WRITING THE POEM "THE JACKET."**

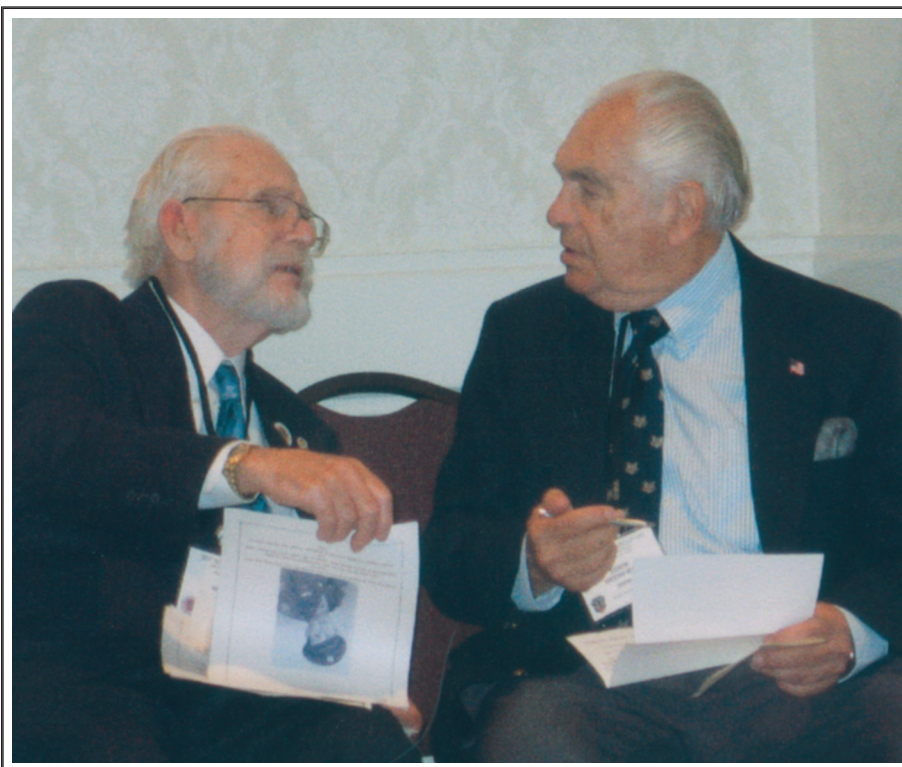
Listening, on the right, is Eddie Deerfield as he prepared to introduce the poet to the audience at the reunion Memorial Service in Dayton.

John said he was transferred to the 303rd from the 92nd Bomb Group. When he arrived at his new quarters he saw a heavy flying jacket, soaked by the rain, hanging on a fence post outside the hut. It was torn, and the leather had stained the post.

"Why was it there?" John wondered. What happened to the owner? What if it was my jacket and I had been wounded? I never asked and had dreams."

The former YB-40 specialist completed 25 missions, flying with eight different crews as engineer, waist gunner and tail gunner.

The jacket was always a question. Years later, he wrote his poem.



***The Jacket.....by John Newman***

A jacket was hanging on a fence post beside the hut, the rainy day that I arrived.  
The jeep driver let me out, and helped unload my gear.  
The jacket, a heavy flying type, hung by the collar with the fleece side out.  
It was soggy, soaking wet, for in England it was the stormy time of year.

I stood in the rain and stared, as the garment seemed to weep from a dark brown spot that stained the wool.  
Tiny rivulets ran down to streak the wooden post a rusty red.

I went inside to choose an empty bunk, and to meet the other crews.  
I thought about the jacket, and why they let it stay.  
Could it hold a story of someone's blood that had been shed?  
I really didn't want to ask, and no one ever said .

On a clear, bright morning, even before the blush of dawn,  
somewhere on the line, a hundred bomber engines coughed themselves alive.  
I awoke, even before I heard the Sergeant's step,  
as he came to call that day's mission crews.

To fly away into the sky with a thousand men, and yet be alone amid  
the enemy flak and fighter's shell.  
I will do my best, to help keep my friends safe from a fate they did not choose.  
He called my name, and, for a moment as I packed my flying gear into my bag,  
a thought ran through my mind.

If my jacket came back torn and stained where I had bled,  
would someone hang it fleece side out to weep on rainy days?  
And would a stream of tears run down to turn the post a rusty red?

I wouldn't even ask, and no one ever said.







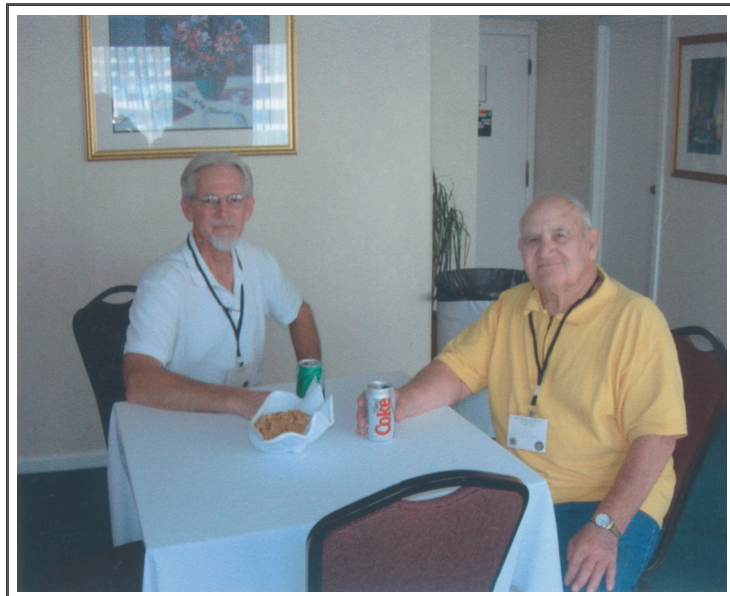
## PICTORIAL ESSAY

Frank Magyar was a waist gunner on the Barton Walker crew in the 358th Squadron. He flew the last of his 18 missions in an attack on the marshalling yards at Dresden on 17 April 1945. From his waist position in the B-17, he took the "bombs away" photo seen above.

Frank and his son-in-law, Tom Bernatchez, came to Dayton for the 303rd reunion. In the photo on the right, they stopped by the Hospitality Room for the pause that refreshes.

Below, a refreshing pause at Molesworth with his crewmates—I-to-r—Frank Magyar, tail gunner Ray Massey and ball turret gunner Andy Diaczynski.

Frank flew his first mission on 13 January 1945, his last on 17 April 1945. Below, right, he's deeply engrossed in the latest edition of *Stars and Stripes* as he gives Andy an account of Germany's surrender.





# Molesworth Diary

## PARTY NOT A SOBERING EXPERIENCE

I was a substitute navigator on Vince Rybaltowski's crew on 10 March 1945. A B-17 ahead of us ran off the runway and was stuck. All planes behind it, naturally, were held up when cleared to take off. When we finally did take off, all the planes behind us formed on our plane. We had our own little formation of six or seven B-17's.

The main bomber column was well on its way. We picked up some stragglers and headed for the target, railroad marshalling yards at Schwerte in Germany. We dropped a smoke marker and then went home. It was Rybaltowski's last mission. The party at the club that night was not a sobering experience.

Glen R. Swenson  
359th Squadron Navigator

## WAIST GUNNER KILLED ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

On the fourth of July, 1943, our target was an aircraft factory at Le Mans, France. I was flying on Jack Timken's crew. Joe Paiva, our right waist gunner on *Sky Wolf*, was a great piano player. It was his 18th mission. We were attacked by FW-190's. One engine was knocked out and Joe was hit in the stomach by a 30-caliber bullet. I was credited with shooting down an FW-190 just before Joe was killed. I think he also shot one down. Sad day for our crew.

George R. Redhead  
358th Squadron Left Waist Gunner

## MAJOR DAMAGE TO 21 B-17's AT SAARBRUCKEN

Thirty-seven aircraft of the 303rd Bomb Group left Molesworth on 11 May 1944 to attack railroad marshalling yards at Saarbrucken, Germany. Bombing altitudes were 21,000 and 22,000 feet. In the six hour and fifteen minute mission, 21 303rd B-17's sustained major damage and 15 minor damage.

Pilot John Long and his crew were aboard *Bow-Uri-Neck-Stevens*, in the lead position of the low squadron. We were number two in the bombing formation, on Long's right wing. On the first bombing run, Long's plane absorbed a flak hit which set the number one engine ablaze, and his B-17 dropped out of formation. He was able to regain his position on three engines for the second bomb run. Just after the bomb run, another flak burst tore the number three engine and propeller off the plane, throwing it completely out of control. It flipped over on its back and went down in a dive. From our position in the formation, it appeared to explode and we didn't see any parachutes. I have since learned that four became prisoners of war. The pilot was among the dead.

John Long was from my barracks. I had flown three previous missions with him. The Saarbrucken mission was his last.

Donald M. Johnston  
360th Squadron Pilot

## LACK OF MECHANIC SCHOOLING NOT A PROBLEM

I was one of the very few aircraft mechanics to make crew chief without ever having attended an aircraft mechanic school, not even a week.

I was most proud of my crew's work on B-17 number 42-107206, *Old Black Magic*. She was assigned to our squadron on 23 April 1944, and flew 122 combat missions before crashing near Brussels, Belgium almost exactly a year later.

Before the war, I had been a mechanic on construction and mining equipment. After the war, I worked for United Airlines for 28 years as an aircraft mechanic and inspector plus another five years on their payroll.

Blaine A. Ruark  
359th Squadron Crew Chief

## AN EVENTFUL FIRST MISSION IN COMBAT

I fainted at high altitude on my first mission in combat due to my oxygen mask freezing up. Our pilot dropped out of formation to get to lower altitude to save my life. We were immediately attacked by seven FW-190's and miraculously escaped.

Vernon E. Schwartz  
360th Squadron Radio Operator

## WOUNDED FOUR DAYS AFTER 23RD BIRTHDAY

We were in real trouble as we approached the target area, a synthetic oil plant at Sterkrade, Germany. I could remember the words of that German radio announcer the night before when she said our target for the day would be Sterkrade. I could see German fighter planes several thousand feet below us. They were no problem. It was the flak barrage from their 155-mm cannons on the ground.

I was hit even before we started the bomb run. It's only by the grace of God that we were able to survive the anti-aircraft fire. Because of heavy damage to our plane after we had dropped our payload, we were losing altitude with two of our engines out.

After the bomb run, it was every B-17 on its own. As we were coming into Molesworth, Richard Greenbaum, our pilot, indicated by flares that there was a casualty aboard and not enough fuel to make more than one attempt to land. As soon as we touched down, an ambulance met us. I was carried off the plane and given a shot of morphine. The next thing I knew I woke up in the base hospital with my arm in a cast.

I was the only one hit on our ship. I never did get to use my guns in combat. It was my 16th mission, and the flight surgeon told me they were sending me back to the states where I would be hospitalized until my arm was repaired. January 18, 1945, was my 23rd birthday. I was wounded on January 22.

Henry L. Armstrong  
358th Squadron Waist Gunner

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

How many of you thought you would see the next century? We, the members of the "Greatest Generation", are a hardy lot and here we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. That being said, the time has come to be realistic about many things. First and foremost is the future of our 303<sup>rd</sup> BG (H) Assoc.

This past year of our Association has seen both the President and Vice President of Administration stricken with major health problems. This forced us to fall back on the Immediate Past President to once again pick up the gavel.

Pres. Dick Bowler, suffered a major stroke in April of 2005, and remains under care in a Nursing home in Burlington Vt., Ken Clark, V. Pres. Administration is the victim of Brain Cancer. Our hearts and prayers go out to these two former officers and their families.

The remaining Veterans of the 303<sup>rd</sup> have all reached the age of 80 years, or soon will, along with their wives, and widows who survive. It has become more and more difficult to find members willing and able to provide the leadership necessary to operate our organization as we have for the past 30 some years.

The interest of the Family Members has tended to drop off once "their Veteran" passes on. Very few have been willing to serve as Officers.

Attendance at reunions continues to diminish due to age and health issues that make travel difficult. There were only 76 Veterans in attendance at Dayton, which was less than half of the 173 registered. As attendance drops the cost of holding a reunion goes up, because unless hotels can book a lot of "room nights" they are not willing to furnish meeting rooms, etc. gratis and we will be forced to either add the cost to the registration fee or cover it from the 303<sup>rd</sup>'s Treasury. I will do my best to convince the Board to hold the registration fee down.

All of our Veterans are now Life Members, so for all practical purposes there will be virtually no dues income in the future. However, we have just completed a very successful drive to raise enough money to keep our Association going at the current level of excellence for a couple more years. This includes the continued publication of our newsletter at the quality level we have all

come to enjoy and expect. The website will be maintained and improved, because it is managed by a second generation member of a Veteran's family, with the third generation waiting in the wings. Arrangements can be made for it to continue, long after the Association has disbanded.

With all of the above taken into consideration the Executive Committee has decided to develop a plan for a graceful disbanding of our Association. That plan will have our 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc. "Bring Down the Curtain" with a final reunion in 2007, at Washington, D.C.

The Association must be dissolved in accordance with the Florida State Articles of Incorporation, which were detailed in writing when our Association was incorporated. We must also follow the rules and tax laws of the IRS, as set out in Section 501 ( c ) ( 19). I will detail all of this more in the coming months.

There will be a great many things to decide in the next two years as we establish the best way to preserve our history and some of those things were put into motion at the meetings just held at the Reunion in Dayton. I will keep you up to date on the issues to be decided and the decisions as they are made by the Board, in my letters to the Membership in the coming issues of our HANL.

One of the primary things required when a Non-profit Organization such as ours dissolves is, it must transfer any remaining assets to a similar non-profit organization.

So now my challenge to you, the Second Generation Members of the 303<sup>rd</sup> BG (H) Association, is: Put together a successor organization to be the recipient of the previously mentioned assets. The present IRS non-profit designation 501( c )(19) is a Veterans Organization. You will most likely have to seek a 501(c )(3) status. The Board of Directors has pledged their full support to this endeavor. Come to San Antonio prepared to demonstrate your willingness to pick up the torch and carry it. You have a year to start putting together a successor organization. We the Veteran Members look forward to attending future reunions that you plan, as long as we are physically able to do so.

William H. "Bill" Cox  
President, 303<sup>rd</sup> BG (H) Association



# OPEN FORUM

READERS—THIS IS YOUR SPACE. LET'S HAVE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE WAY THINGS WERE OR THE WAY THINGS ARE. WRITE TO: EDITOR, HELL'S ANGELS NEWSLETTER, 3552 LANDMARK TRAIL, PALM HARBOR, FL 34684

## BRIAN MCGUIRE, FRIEND OF 303RD, DEAD AT AGE 60

Scott McGuire has informed me that his brother, Brian, passed away on August 31 at the too young age of 60. Brian was one of the 303rd's most ardent supporters. He gave so much of his time to ensuring the memory of the 303rd. He and my father, George Kyle, were great friends, and I feel fortunate to have met him on several occasions, including the "Last Mission To Moleworth" in June of 2000.

Brian orchestrated the incredible events of that unforgettable weekend. His commitment to all the veterans, his loyalty and enthusiasm will be missed. Brian was a true friend of the 303rd.

Carol Kyle Sage  
Talking Rock, Georgia

## FINDS PHOTO OF 299Z IN 1954 POPULAR SCIENCE

Enjoyed reading your "Editor Comments" on the back page in the August issue about the Boeing 299Z. It really is an odd-looking B-17.

I was looking at some of my old Popular Science magazines, and found a picture of the Z-299 in the June 1954 issue. I noticed it was flying on the nose engine only, with the other four engines feathered. The caption said the turboprop fifth engine packed more punch than the others combined. (See photo below). I live about 30 miles from the New England Air Museum and have been there a number

of times.

My hobby is antique cars. Mine is a 1948 Dodge coupe.

Charles Doback, Sr.  
358th Squadron

## REMEMBERS BOEING 299Z AT WESTOVER AFB SHOW

The B-17 pictured on the back cover of the August 2005 newsletter caught my attention.

I was stationed at Westover Air Force Base in 1953, and we had an air show there. The highlight was this B-17. It took off with the four engines, flew a couple of circuits. We were told it was flying at 250 miles per hour. It disappeared for a few seconds, and we heard a loud bang. Most of us thought the plane had crashed.

No, it came back to the show with just the nose turboprop motor running, and it was doing 350 mph. It came back for one more pass with all five engines churning and disappeared off into the sunset. I guess because it was so unusual that I remembered it after all these years.

John Sivils  
Kettering, England

## AUGUST NEWSLETTER TO BE CHRISTMAS GIFT

My husband, Norman Sampson, is in the picture on page 14 of the Hell's Angels Newsletter of August 2005. It's the one with the heading "Nine of the 303rd's Best Pin-ups" showing the crew's return to base after crashing in the English

Channel. Norman was ball turret gunner on *Old Squaw* that day. He thought it would be a good idea to give each of our grandchildren a copy of the newsletter as a Christmas gift. All the grandsons are very interested in the 8th Air Force history.

I thought I might mention that Norman and "Bud" Klint are the only two surviving members of that 427th Squadron crew. We get together with Bud and his wife, Mary, at least once a year.

Anita Sampson  
Ozark, Missouri

## TWO 303RD VETS HAVE OWN FIRST REUNION

Over 60 years ago, I was the radio operator on the Lee Bashor crew. We were flying *Sweet La Rhonda*. I walked into the radio room, and a strange sergeant was installing some equipment. When I asked what was going on, he introduced himself as Ricky Reider and said "I'm flying a mission with you, and don't ask about the equipment because it's secret." After flying about five or six missions with the Bashor crew, Reider disappeared as silently as he had first appeared.

Sixty years later, at the Dayton reunion, Ricky and I said "Hello" again. That's what reunions are all about.

Victor N. Shook  
359th Squadron

## AWARDED PLAQUE FOR SERVICE TO STUDENTS

I thought you did a great job editing that story in the August 2005 issue about my first mission (to Brux).

Because of lingering arthritis in my back, my only remaining hobby is auditing a creative writing workshop at Texas A & M University in Corpus Christi. I was amazed to learn that the professors like having me

there. At the end of the last spring semester, they presented me with a plaque of appreciation which read "Award for Outstanding Service to the Creative Writing Program and its Students."

William F. "Bill" Miller  
359th Squadron

## NEWSLETTER GOES TO BOEING HISTORIAN

Thank you for forwarding to me a copy of the *Hell's Angels Newsletter*. It is a very informative magazine and I particularly enjoyed reading the stories regarding the 303rd Bomb Group's sorties and anecdotes—truly an extraordinary group of heroes to whom our country and much of the world is grateful for your heroism and courage.

I will be happy to pass the magazine along to our Boeing Historian and Customer Relations team in Seattle who have worked for many years in support of the B-17 Fortress legacy.

I look forward to its next issue!

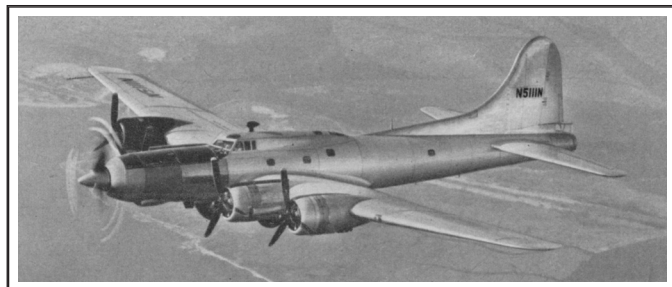
Thomas R. Pickering  
Senior Vice President  
International Relations  
The Boeing Company

## TO BE INDUCTED INTO OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME

I was fortunate to be nominated and accepted by the Hall of Fame. I learned the news recently when a letter came from Karen Kish, coordinator for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame that I had been selected for induction.

The letter opened with "Congratulations," and continued, "It is my pleasure to inform you that you have been selected for induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2005. You will join an elite group of Ohio veterans including our Medal of Honor recipients, United States presidents

(Continued on page 18)





**FORUM from page 17**

from Ohio with military service, and a long list of distinguished community and veterans' leaders.

You are one of 20 inductees selected by a 13-member executive committee made of veteran leaders from across Ohio."

When I accept the honor at the induction ceremony on November 3 in Columbus, I will remind the audience that this recognition is on behalf of those that made the ultimate sacrifice and that we are fortunate to have a group of individuals called "veterans."

John J. Nicastro, Sr.  
358th Squadron Navigator

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLE  
LEADS TO INTERVIEW**

The Memorial Day issue of the Herald Dispatch of Huntington, West Virginia had a story about me and the 303rd Bomb Group. The newspaper serves parts of Ohio and Kentucky as well as West Virginia.

The story was the result of an article in the Hell's Angels Newsletter about our crew's mission to Hamburg, Germany on July 25, 1943. The headline said, "Death-Defying Game of Musical Chairs on 303rd's *Flak-Wolf*." It had been sent to a Herald Dispatch reporter by the daughter of one of our veterans.

The reporter came to my home, and I told her the significance of the 303rd B-17 with the Triangle-C on the wall behind me.

Abbott M. Smith, Jr.  
427th Squadron Bombardier

**"BEATS ME KEEPS ON FLYING  
UNTIL WE ARE GONE"**

The two pages in the May 2005 newsletter about our B-17 *Beats Me* and the terrible disaster for our crew and the plane on the Lorient mission of January 23, 1943 were quite a surprise. My wife, Donna, and I have been remiss in not thanking you for the earlier story in the February issue about

Ewell McCright. His prisoner-of-war ledgers were so important, and he didn't even realize what a great deed he performed. Thanks to Arnold Wright of Benton, Arkansas, his name and ledgers are in the history of the great 303rd Bomb Group.

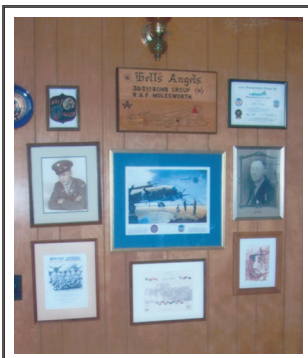
For me and Mel Schulstad, our regular pilot, *Beats Me* keeps flying until we are gone.

Charles Roth  
358th Sqdn Radio Operator

**ADAMS CARVING WINNER  
THANKS THE ARTIST**

At the reunion in Savannah last year, I won a coveted prize—a carved wooden plaque crafted by Bill Adams of England and donated to the 303rd Bomb Group Association. It's a beautiful work of art, and will become a treasured heirloom for our family. It's hanging in my home on the wall of honor.

I wrote to Bill to thank



him for the carving and to tell him his work is highly respected and sought-after. I remember vividly the days and nights with the 303rd at Molesworth from September 1944 to mid-January 1945. I met some wonderful people, and still think of them fondly.

Alan E. Frey  
360th Sqdn Radio Operator

**HE LIVED TO 92; SERVED  
HIS COUNTRY WELL**

This is to inform the 303rd Bomb Group Association of the passing of my uncle, T/Sgt Francis J. Burns, 358th Squadron Radio Operator on *Sky Wolf*. He successfully along with his crewmates under Capt. Carl Morales completed 25 missions in the early part of

the war. He was awarded six medals and served his country well. He passed on last August and lived to be 92 years old. He is survived by a niece, three nephews and many grand and great-grand nieces and nephews.

He lived a good life and his passing was peaceful. I thank him for being my uncle and friend, and I thank him for his service to his country as I thank all the veterans of the 303rd Bomb Group for what you did for our succeeding generations.

Paul Burns  
Somerville, Massachusetts

**WIDOW ASKS TO KEEP  
RECEIVING NEWSLETTER**

My husband, Joseph W. Szudlo, passed away on April 8, 2005 from two cancers. I would like to continue receiving your newsletter, if possible, as I have always read it after he had gone through it. Keep up the good work. He enjoyed reading the newsletter and so did I.

Lucy Szudlo  
Phoenix, Arizona  
(EDITOR'S NOTE—The widows of our 303rd veterans always remain on the Hell's Angels Newsletter mailing list unless they request to be deleted.)

**303RD VET HAPPY IN  
"BEST" RETIREMENT HOME**

Just got my August newsletter about the reunion in San Antonio next year. I'll be there. I'm a resident of Air Force Village One in San Antonio, definitely my last change of station. I'm the only 303rd veteran here, and quite happy to be in the best retirement home in the USA.

Ray Gorham  
358th Squadron Bombardier

**COLIN POWELL'S ANSWER  
TO THE ARCHBISHOP**

Here's an item from our local American Legion newsletter that I thought you might like for the 303rd's newsletter:

When in England at a conference, General Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if

Iraq was an example of empire-building by George Bush. He answered, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only land we ask for is enough to bury those who don't return."

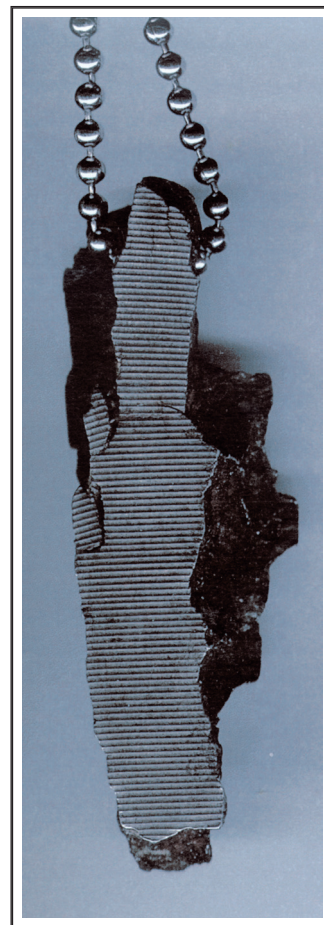
James B. Taylor  
360th Squadron Pilot

**FLAK FRAGMENT ON  
CHAIN GOOD TO TOUCH**

Everyone who sees my flak fragment wants to fondle it. It's a souvenir of my last mission to Berlin on 3 February 1945.

It's 2 and 3-16th's inches long, about 3/4 of an inch thick and 1/2 inch wide. This piece is milled on one side and razor-sharp on the other. It burst through the nose of our B-17 just a few inches over my head, leaving a fist-sized hole in the Plexiglas and shattering the chin turret aiming cradle in the process.

Robert A. Hand, Sr.  
360th Squadron Bombardier



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

At the Reunion in Dayton, the Board of Directors voted on and put into effect some changes.

The major change being “No More Dues.” The Membership has been frozen as it stands. Whatever level of Membership you had on August 23, 2005, you will hold in good standing for the life of the Association. New Memberships will be accepted with the payment of a onetime registration fee of \$25.00. That will give new members, membership for the life of the Association.

If Members desire to pay dues, they will be accepted as donations to the Association.

The mailing list still needs to be maintained, so you can continue to receive the Hell’s Angels Newsletter and Reunion Registration Material. Please send any change of address to: The Treasurer (see page 2 for address) or it can be sent to: [membership@303rdbg.com](mailto:membership@303rdbg.com).

The sad news of members passing can be sent to the Treasurer or [taps@303rdbg.com](mailto:taps@303rdbg.com).

## In Memoriam

Cyrus S. Cruttenden	427 <sup>th</sup> /POW	8/09/2005
Brian McGuire	Honorary	8/31/2005
George C. Newton	427 <sup>th</sup>	2/22/2005
Glynn Franklin Shumake	358 <sup>th</sup>	4/26/2004
Arni Leonard Sumarlidason	360 <sup>th</sup>	12/08/2004

## DONATIONS “IN MEMORY”

Nathellie B. Oates for Capt. Ross Bales 359<sup>th</sup>  
Jean DeCicco for Frank DeCicco

## DONATIONS

Robert L. Johnson, William D. Keane, Carolyn A. Guertin, Norman and Anita Sampson, Chuck and Donna Roth

## NEW MEMBERS

Trina A. Grohs, 5275 Sommerset Drive, Los Vegas NV 89120

Alan W. Hallum, 2563 Alcovy Station Rd., Covington, GA 30014-0753

Lisa Lennard, 915 Fiske St., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Christopher Lovett, 5275 Somerset Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89120

William Gary Page, 4305 Joplin Street, Rockville, MD 20853

Jimmy Perry (Kathleen) 5028 Hidden Forest Lane, N. Charleston SC 29420

Richard (Dick) Rohaly, 2833 Greenfield Ave., Los Angeles CA 90064



## HELL'S ANGELS NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU NOW!

The well is running dry.

The newsletter needs stories and pictures from our veterans for the Molesworth Diary, 303rd Pin-ups and feature articles.

If your article, Diary story or photo of your time in the 303rd at Molesworth has never been published in our newsletter, send it NOW to

The Editor  
Hell's Angels Newsletter  
3552 Landmark Trail  
Palm Harbor, FL 34684-5016





PLAQUES HONORING THE 303RD BOMB GROUP CAN BE FOUND IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD.

This one informs visitors to the Memorial Garden at the National Museum of the US Air Force that the 303rd flew more missions than any other 8th AF B-17 Group. It was dedicated on 1 October 1982.

Enjoying the Garden while attending the Dayton reunion are Martin Harbarger of the 358th Squadron, in the center, accompanied by his daughter, Patty, and her husband, Jim LaBarr.



## THE EDITOR COMMENTS....

Take it from me, the most difficult challenge the 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association's Board of Directors has ever faced was in reaching the decision a few months ago to bring the curtain down after the 2007 reunion. I've been a member of the Board for the last ten years as President, Vice President for Reunions, Vice President for Administration and Hell's Angels Newsletter editor. It would have been easier for Board members to dodge the issue, to put it on a back burner. We have been doing that since the first proposal to dissolve the Association surfaced at a Board meeting years ago. But, this time, the Board realized that we didn't face the problems then that we face today.

Bill Cox, in his *From The President* column on page 16, provides insights to the factors leading to the Board's decision and his thoughts on developing a plan "for the graceful disbanding of our Association." The key word is "graceful." I would add, "with pride, dignity and honor." The alternative is for the Association to limp along until it simply fades away. Our veterans, both in the leadership and in the membership, are increasingly and inevitably decimated by the health problems and deaths that accompany advanced age. Official attendance at the reunion in Dayton last August was 165. That's the lowest turnout for a regular reunion since the Association was chartered in 1976.

The recorded history of the 303rd Bomb Group is secure. The 303rd's archival collection has been transferred to the 8th AF Heritage Museum. The 303rd's books *Might In Flight* and *Hell's Angels Newsletter Silver Anniversary Collection* and the CD *The Molesworth Story* are in libraries throughout the United States. A third volume of the final 24 newsletter issues is planned. The 303rd's outstanding web site will endure long after the Association ceases.

The Board has pledged its full support in the coming two years to the formation of a new and distinct successor Association organized by the sons and daughters and other family members of our veterans. The leadership nucleus is there in such people as Gary Moncur, Charlie and Vicki Sykes, Carol Sage, Jim Hardy, Lance Stoner, Kathy Johnson, Bill McLeod, Jon Schulstad and others. If their "can do" spirit is strong enough, they will succeed.

Eddie Deerfield

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