

March 24, 2008

To All Friends of the 303rd Bomb Group:

“303rd NexGen”, it’s our turn now!

The Veterans of the 303rd disbanded the 303rd BGA after the September 2007 reunion in Washington DC. Many of the attendees at that reunion, and many other Veterans and family members of the 303rd, didn’t want it to end. Since then, over 200 people have expressed a desire to form a next generation 303rd Bomb Group association, and we’re well on our way. If you haven’t signed up, it’s time to get on board!

There are many challenges to forming a new association, and we are still working on the right structure to perpetuate the proud legacy of the 303rd. A critical step is to continue the 303rd REUNION tradition. We want to continue to meet as a group to share memories, fellowship and fun, as well as to confirm the structure and determine the future of the 303rd NexGen association.

Initial efforts to plan a stand-alone 303rd Reunion in 2008 proved to be unfeasible in light of the infancy of 303rd NexGen. We decided the best alternative would be to meet in Savannah along side, and as part of, the 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion. While the 8th AFHS represents all of the 8th Air Force, their reunions are set up to allow individual bomb groups time to meet alone and share their own special moments. The efforts of the 303rd Bomb Group were clearly enhanced by forming-up with other 8th Air Force Bomb Groups during WWII. Similarly, we believe teaming with the 8th AFHS at their reunion in August will help our 303rd NexGen group solidify our plans and perpetuate our association.

So, we’ve worked with the 8th AFHS to join their reunion on August 3-8, 2008. However, we will have a separate rendezvous dinner and meeting, our own hospitality suite, distinct 303rd nametags, and group seating at the closing banquet to ensure we retain our 303rd identity. At our rendezvous dinner on August 6th, we will hold a group discussion on the 303rd NexGen’s future course. We’ll vote on key issues such as our organizational structure, future reunions, communications methods, funding, and if or how we may affiliate with other organizations. There are many questions we need to get answered. What we do know now is:

- The 303rd Bomb Group has a proud heritage.**
- We have the best-documented WWII bomb group history, “Might in Flight”.**
- We have an outstanding Website (thank you Gary Moncur!).**
- We have an active group of 303rd Veterans, family members and friends that want to perpetuate the legacy of the 303 Bomb Group.**

We need your help to get 303rd NexGen off the ground. Your mission is:

- 1. Register NOW for the 8th AFHS Reunion in Savannah, GA on August 3-8, 2008. A reunion package with the registration form is attached. Please note one principal attendee from your family must be a member of the**

- 8th AFHS, so if a member of your family hasn't joined the 8th AFHS yet, please do so under "Dues" on the reunion registration form. Questions can be directed to Mamie Kent at the 8th AFHS, (912) 748-8884.
2. Reserve hotel rooms for you and your family. The 303rd NexGen group will be staying at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront, (800) 285-0398. Specify you are with the 303rd Bomb Group and part of the 8th AFHS Reunion to get the group rates. Hotel space at discounted reunion rates is limited, and on a first come first served basis, so register early!
 3. Help us spread the word about 303rd NexGen and the Reunion with the 8th AFHS. Copy this announcement, forward it to all your 303rd friends, and get them to join us in Savannah in August.
 4. Contact our Reunion Committee Chairs to get involved in the Savannah 2008 Reunion events. We need 303rd Hospitality Room help, Dinner Planning help, Logistics help, Memorial Service help, Local Transportation help and more! Please contact Jay Hardy (757) 258-0194, email: jhardy101@cox.net, or Carol Sage (706) 276-1041, email: sage@elijay.com.
 5. Volunteer to help with the formation of 303rd NexGen association. Even if you cannot make the reunion, we want you to be part of the 303rd NexGen association. Email us at NexGen303rd@yahoo.com and tell us how you want to get involved.
 6. If you'd rather mail inquiries concerning the 303rd NexGen, send them to Bob McCoy, 6535 SW 178th Place, Aloha, OR 97007.
 7. If you haven't already done so, get on the 303rd NexGen email list by signing up at <http://www.303rdbg.com/nexgen.html>

The future of the 303rd next generation association is in your hands!

All Veterans of the 303rd, all spouses and descendents of 303rd Veterans, and all friends of the 303rd: the time is NOW to take an active part in the future of 303rd NexGen and to sign up for the Savannah 2008 reunion.

We look forward to seeing you in Savannah!

From the 303rd NexGen Organizing Committee;

Rob Galbraith, son of Robert E. Galbraith, 358th
Jay Hardy, son of James H. Hardy, 360th
Bob McCoy, son of Melvin T. McCoy, 444th
Brittney McCoy, granddaughter of Melvin T. McCoy, 444th
Jim McCoy, son of Melvin T. McCoy, 444th
Carol Sage, daughter of George A. Kyle, Jr, 360th

Attached: 8th AFHS Savannah 2008 Reunion Information and Registration Info.
(If you have difficulty opening the email attachments, please email us at NexGen303rd@yahoo.com and we will mail you a packet.)

Email: NexGen303rd@yahoo.com

Postal Address: 303rd NexGen
6536 SW 178th Place
Aloha, OR 97007

**8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION
SAVANNAH MARRIOTT
AUGUST 3-8, 2008**

Spring is here, and summer isn't that far away, so start making plans to attend the 34th annual reunion. Secure your reservations early, as rooms may be limited, as well as some of the tours.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

See choices below and complete the Registration Form noting your event choices and personal information. By "WWII GROUP," we're asking for the group or unit in which you served (specific Bomb Group, Fighter Group, PRG, HQ, etc.). We use this information for tallying totals for each group, nametags, and seating arrangements. If you prefer to sit with a different group, please give us that information too. Remit by mail with check or money order payable to Armed Forces Reunions by July 2, 2008. New for 2008: Register and pay with credit card online at www.armedforcesreunions.com/8afhs. A \$6 convenience fee will be added to online credit card reservations. Forms received after July 2 will be accepted on a space available basis only. Hotel reservations should be made by calling 1-800-285-0398 by July 2, 2008.

ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. CANCELLATION POLICY

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less a \$5 per person processing fee. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less a \$5 processing fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation doesn't cancel your reunion activities.

MEALS / EVENTS CHOICES

CHOICE #1 TOTAL PACKAGE \$187

Package includes 7 hotel food functions starting with breakfast on Tuesday. Tours are separate.

CHOICE # 2 PARTIAL PACKAGE \$136

Package includes 5 hotel food functions starting with breakfast on Wednesday. Tours are separate.

Breakfast menus: The continental breakfasts on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday include juice, breakfast breads, cereal, yogurt, fruit, coffee, and tea. The breakfast buffet on Thursday includes juice, assorted breakfast breads, eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, pancakes, coffee, and tea.

CHOICE #3 INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Wednesday Rendezvous Dinner at \$39 and Thursday Banquet at \$47 can be purchased separately, but are included in both packages above.

TOUR OPTIONS

Tours and trips are described on the Reunion Highlights Pages. Prices are listed on the registration form. Driver and Guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION
AUGUST 3 – 8, 2008
MARRIOTT – SAVANNAH, GA

Sunday, August 3

2:00pm - 6:00pm **Early Bird Registration open**

Monday, August 4

8:00am - 10:00am **Reunion Registration open**

9:00am Memorabilia/Gathering Room & PX opens

10:30am - 3:30pm LOW COUNTRY / ISLE OF HOPE

1:00pm - 8AFHS Board Meeting

3:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**

6:00pm - 10:00pm OLD FORT JACKSON

Tuesday, August 5

7:00am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast

8:00am - 10:00am **Reunion Registration open**

8:00am - 9:30am Unit Advisory and Chapter & Unit Development Meeting

10:00am - 4:00pm MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

3:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**

4:30pm - 5:30pm Medical Advisory Seminar: *Pearls*, by Dr. Brown

6:00pm - 7:00pm Cash Bar Reception

7:00pm - 9:00pm Dinner & Entertainment

Wednesday, August 6

7:00am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast

8:00am - 9:30am **Reunion Registration open**

8:00am - 9:30am Individual Group Meetings

9:45am - 2:15pm CITY TOUR

10:15am - 2:15pm MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSUEM

2:30pm - 4:00pm Next Generation Meeting

4:00pm - 6:00pm 355th FG Q&A Session

3:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**

6:00pm - 7:00pm 8AFHS Cash Bar Reception

7:00pm - Rendezvous Dinners and 'Hangar Flying'

Thursday, August 7

7:00am - 8:30am Full Breakfast Buffet

9:00am - 11:00am General Membership Meeting

1:00pm - 4:00pm PAULA DEEN HISTORY TOUR

1:00pm - 3:30pm Norman C. Grant Symposium: KEEPING THEM FLYING

5:30pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**

6:00pm - 7:00pm 8AFHS Cash Bar Reception (consider starting earlier)

7:00pm - 8AFHS Gala Banquet

Friday, August 8

7:00am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast

9:00am - 8AFHS Annual Board Meeting

*Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.
All tours must have a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise stated.*

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

LOW COUNTRY / ISLE OF HOPE

Monday, August 4

This is the tour to take if the true feel of Savannah is what you would like to experience during your stay in the Low Country. Enjoy the "romantic flavor of restful elegance" on this excursion. Enjoy a stop at Wormsloe Plantation, which was established in 1737 by Noble Jones, one of the first British colonists in the area. The surviving ruins of the original house are one of the only remaining examples of fortified houses once common throughout coastal Georgia. Lunch will be at the Johnny Harris restaurant, where you will enjoy a fine southern seafood lunch. After lunch, reboard bus for a drive down the azalea and palm tree shrouded Victory Drive. The foliage along this drive was planted in loving memory of Savannah's brave WWII warriors. The drive will continue on to Thunderbolt, a thriving shrimping community with shrimp boats docked along the Skidway River. Note: This tour is limited to a minimum of 50 people and maximum of 100 people.

10:30am board bus, 3:30pm back at hotel

\$53/Person includes bus, guide, admission, and lunch.

OLD FORT JACKSON

Monday, August 4

Old Fort Jackson is the oldest standing brick fort in Georgia. You will be swept back in time as you enter this historic structure. Upon arrival, you will be greeted by uniformed soldiers of the Civil War. You will receive all proper military honors, accompanied by fife and drum music. Enter the fort's parade ground and explore the fort's museum and casemates. A bugle call will summon you to step into history as the Captain of the Guard directs a fifteen-minute historic presentation of Civil War life in and around Savannah. Dinner consists of a buffet featuring baked chicken. While eating, you'll be entertained by a wandering balladeer. Serving time is approximately 7:30pm. Alcoholic beverages are not available. Note: a minimum of fifty people is required.

6:00pm board bus, 10:00pm back at the hotel

\$67/Person includes bus, escort, and dinner.

MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

Tuesday, August 5

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum was created to build, maintain, and operate into perpetuity a living memorial to the men and women who served with the United States 'Mighty Eighth' Air Force. It consists of a nationally recognized museum and historical repository, where serious study and casual informational research may be performed by the general public using the museum's database. The museum accurately displays, exhibits, and portrays the sacrifices, daily activities, and accomplishments of all segments of the 'Mighty Eighth' Air Force team. With vintage aircraft, artifacts, photographs, the thrilling "Mission Experience" and personal stories—this Museum has it all! Of course, and extra special day is planned today. Special seminars, book signings, and a Memorial Service are on the schedule for all to enjoy. More information will be available at the museum. A deli sandwich - box lunch is included as well.

For those that are members of this museum, please show your membership card at reunion registration for a refund of the admission fee.

10:00am board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel

\$45/Person includes bus, escort, admission, and lunch.

DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT

Tuesday, August 5

Spend the evening with your comrades and friends at the hotel. The buffet will feature two entrees along with side dishes & dessert. Mr. Joachim (Joe) Hoehne will be the after-dinner speaker. His life has been very unique -- he will report on what it was like to be a teenage rocket pilot (ME-163 Komet) of the Third Reich near the end of WW II, and how he grew up in Germany during the 1930's and 40's as the son of a senior Luftwaffe Officer. Never seeing combat as a pilot because of his youth and because of an extreme shortage of rocket fuel, he obtained an engineering degree after the war and then emigrated to the United States. He became a citizen and worked as a construction engineer from the early 50's until retirement. He makes his home in Denham Springs, LA. Copies of his book, "Glory Refused," will be for sale in the PX and he will be available to autograph them after his speech.

6:00pm Cash Bar Reception, 7:00pm Dinner and Entertainment.

Cost is included in Meal Package #1.

CITY TOUR

Wednesday, August 6

Savannah has always been a city rich in history and culture. On this tour, you will explore America's finest 'living' collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings in one of our nation's largest National Historic Landmark Districts. Beautiful streets and squares reveal more than 250 years of history, displayed eloquently in exquisite ironwork, ancient cobblestones, splendid mansions, and picturesque cottages. Discover Savannah's garden-like public squares, the crown jewels of General Oglethorpe's planned city. On the picturesque waterfront you will discover cobblestone-paved Factors Walk and River Street, where old cotton warehouses have been converted into shops, taverns, restaurants, and museums. This tour also includes admission into one of the historic homes or museums. Lunch and shopping will be on your own at City Market. This four-block restoration features unique retail shops, fine restaurants, and the ART Center, a community of working artists. Note: This tour is limited to a maximum of 140 people.

9:45am board bus, 2:15pm back at hotel

\$43/Person includes bus, guide, and admission. Lunch on your own.

**** OR ****

MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

Wednesday, August 6

If you weren't in town to take advantage of the big day on Tuesday or if you just need more time to explore this great facility, here's a second chance to tour the museum without the special 8th AFHS events. Free time and lunch including a sandwich, chips, cookie, and drink.

10:15am board bus, 2:15pm back at hotel

\$42/Person includes bus, escort, admission, and lunch.

RENDEZVOUS DINNERS

Wednesday, August 6

Gather in your respective banquet rooms with your individual groups for dinner featuring Chicken Marsala. Units (BGs, FGs, etc.) with approximately fifty or more people in attendance will have a private room. Smaller groups will be combined with others. Think of this as your "reunion within the reunion."

6:00pm Cash Bar Reception, 7:00pm Dinner.

Cost is included in both meal packages or \$39 separately.

PAULA DEEN HISTORY TOUR

Thursday, August 7

Join us for a peek into the life of famous southern cooking entrepreneur, Paula Deen. Get to know Paula like Savannah knows Paula. The tour includes stops at Polk's Market, Byrd Cookie Company and a few surprises that are sure to give you an appetite for more of the "Good Ole South" and Paula Deen! The tour will take guests through the Historic District and to Bethesda Boys Home where she and Mike were married.

1:00pm board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel

\$42/Person includes bus, guide, donations, and Paula Deen gift bag.

Norman C. Grant Symposium: KEEPING THEM FLYING

Thursday, August 7

The Symposium will feature an in depth look at WWII 8th Air Force Ground Crews. We will also examine several branches of service that all did their part in the success of the 8th Air Force. The program will include a visual presentation, followed by a Symposium featuring several 8th Air Force WWII Ground Crew veterans!! This subject is long overdue and will be a fitting tribute to these "unsung heroes" of the Mighty Eighth!!

1:00-3:30pm at the hotel

Cost is included in your Registration Fee.

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL BANQUET

Thursday, August 7

Assemble in the ballroom for the Posting of the Colors and Memorial Service. Dinner will be a choice of Sliced Strip Loin or Baked Tilapia and the usual accompaniments. After dinner, we'll proceed with the awards ceremony and guest speaker.

6:00pm Cash Bar Reception, 7:00pm Banquet.

Cost is included in both meal packages or \$47 separately.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

SAVANNAH MARRIOTT RIVERFRONT - SAVANNAH, GA
(800) 285-0398

The Savannah Marriott Riverfront is located at 100 General McIntosh Boulevard, Savannah, GA 31401. The Marriott is located on the east end of the world famous River Street, offering guests access to over 60 unique shops and restaurants. If you are driving, please call the hotel for accurate driving directions.

The Savannah Marriott Riverfront offers 391 guest rooms. Handicapped rooms are subject to availability; please request these special accommodations when making reservations. The Marriott is a non-smoking hotel. All rooms feature hairdryer, in-room coffee makers, iron and ironing board, high-speed Internet access for a fee, and in room movies. Guests can also enjoy access to the outdoor pool, fitness center, whirlpool, and gift shop. Check-in is at 4:00pm and check-out is at 11:00am.

There are three types of **suites** available. Junior Suites (\$149/night) and Executive Suites (\$179/night) can be reserved by calling the hotel directly. These suites are oversized rooms with the bed and parlor area sharing the same room. Both types of suites have a dining table and small sitting area. For Unit Hospitality purposes, please contact Donna Lee with Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. at 706-356-1905 to make a reservation. Suites for Hospitality purposes consist of a parlor (approximately 700 square feet) with wet bar, refrigerator, restroom, and sitting areas. One or two bedrooms may be attached. One bedroom hospitality suites are \$270/night. Two bedroom hospitality suites are \$395/night. All rates will have appropriate taxes added.

Blue A Savannah Bistro & Bar serves American cuisine for breakfast, lunch, and dinner in a relaxing atmosphere. **Atrium Bar** offers guests a place to enjoy appetizers and drinks. Room service is available.

The hotel is located about 15 miles from the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport. Gray Line of Savannah provides airport shuttle service. Currently, fees are estimated at \$17 per person one-way and \$29 per person roundtrip, estimated fees are subject to change. Please call (800) 845-5582 for information and reservations. Parking at the hotel for registered group guest is currently \$5.00 for self-parking per day. Valet parking is available at a non-discounted rate of \$15.00 per day.

For RV hookup service, call Bellaire Woods Campground at (912) 748-4000 or Savannah South KOA at (912) 756-3396. Ask for information, reservations, and directions to determine which is the most convenient for you.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call their toll-free number at (888) 441-7575.

***** **HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION** *****

PLEASE CALL THEIR TOLL FREE RESERVATIONS LINE, 1-800-285-0398, TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR 8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION REUNION DATES: AUGUST 3-8, 2008

Please be prepared to give the following information when making your reservations:

- NAME & IF SHARING ROOM, WITH WHOM
- ADDRESS
- TELEPHONE NUMBER
- ARRIVAL DAY & DATE/ DEPARTURE DATE/ CONFIRM THE # OF NIGHTS
- # OF ROOMS & THE # OF PEOPLE IN RM.
- ADVISE IF YOU REQUIRE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE ROOM
- KING BED OR 2 DOUBLE BEDS?

RATE: \$109 + state and local taxes (currently 13%) + \$1 city occupancy fee.

CUTOFF DATE: 07/02/08. Reservations received after this date will be processed on space & rate availability.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled 48 hours prior to date of arrival.

RESERVATION GUARANTEE: Must provide a credit card number with expiration date to reservation agent. Hotel accepts the following card types: AMEX, DINERS, VISA, MASTER CARD, CARTE BLANCHE, DISCOVER

8th AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.armedforcesreunions.com/8afhs. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before July 2, 2008. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
PO Box 11327
Norfolk, VA 23517
ATTN: 8th AFHS

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____
 Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 7/2/08

	Price Per	# of People	Total
REGISTRATION FEE			
Includes Thursday's Symposium expenses, Eaker Award expenses, and other reunion expenses.	\$50		
Reg. Fee for children ages 10-17 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel	\$30		
DUES			
The principal attendee must be a member of the 8AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are not a member, please pay your yearly dues here.	\$30		\$
MEAL PACKAGES			
<i>Choice #1 includes 7 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Tuesday.</i>			
<i>Choice #2 includes 5 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Wednesday.</i>			
Choice #1	\$187		\$
Choice #2	\$136		\$
Please select your entrée choice(s) for the Banquet:			
Roasted Strip Loin		#	
Baked Tilapia (lightly breaded with a lemon cream sauce)		#	
SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package)			
Wednesday: Rendezvous Dinner (chicken)	\$39		\$
Thursday: Banquet (please select your entrée)			
Roasted Strip Loin	\$47		\$
Baked Tilapia (lightly breaded with a lemon cream sauce)	\$47		\$
TOURS			
Monday: Low Country / Isle of Hope	\$53		\$
Monday: Old Fort Jackson	\$67		\$
Tuesday: 8 th AF Heritage Museum	\$45		\$
<i>Please choose one of the following two tours:</i>			
Wednesday: City Tour	\$43		\$
Wednesday: 8 th AF Heritage Museum	\$42		\$
Thursday: Paula Deen History Tour	\$42		\$
Total Amount Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u>			\$

MEMBER NAME _____ SPOUSE NAME _____

GUEST NAMES _____

8AFHS MEMBER # _____ WWII GROUP _____

You must be a member of 8AFHS in order to register. If not a member, please pay your dues above.

PHONE # (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ @ _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? YES NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____