



# Echoes

First Over Germany



## California Here We Come!

# 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force and 306<sup>th</sup> Combine for 2023 Reunion



*DoubleTree by Hilton Ontario Airport – site of 2023 reunion.*

Reunions are a great way to share the stories of veterans and teach younger generations the history of World War II and the Eighth Air Force’s role in the conflicts against enemy targets in Europe.

Registration for the 2023 reunion of the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association, in conjunction with the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, is underway. Pages 9 thru 11 of this *Echoes* issue include the reunion schedule and registration form. Dates for the reunion are Wednesday, 18 October, thru Sunday morning, 22 October.

The site is the Ontario Doubletree Hotel by Hilton, located at 222 N. Vineyard Avenue, Ontario, California. Hotel reservations at either the Doubletree Hotel or at the Best Western Plus (adjacent to the Doubletree Hotel at 209 N. Vineyard Avenue) are suggested. Both hotels are

offering Eighth Air Force Historical Association room rates.

Registration cut-off date is 23 September 2023; no refunds or cancellations after this date.

The hotel is conveniently located near the Ontario International Airport; a complimentary airport shuttle service is available. If you plan to spend a few extra days in the area, the hotel also offers a shuttle service to nearby destinations, such as the Ontario Mills Shopping Mall and Victoria Gardens. Additional nearby attractions, which are not part of the reunion activities but may be of interest, are the San Antonio Winery, California Botanic Gardens, and much more. Several “kid-friendly” activities in the area will also attract the younger generations.

Ontario, California, is not without its relationship to World War II activities. In 1921, local flyers organized the Ontario Aircraft Corporation, where they began flying the “Jennie” Bi-plane. Initially a small dirt landing strip graded by the corporation, the facility started  
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## Leadership

### 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association 2022 – 2023 Officers

PRESIDENT SUE SHARKEY  
[sue.sharkey@comcast.net](mailto:sue.sharkey@comcast.net)

VICE PRESIDENT CLAYTON SNYDER  
[claysny@gmail.com](mailto:claysny@gmail.com)

SECRETARY MARY CONWAY  
[mkconway513@gmail.com](mailto:mkconway513@gmail.com)

TREASURER SALLY SMITH  
Year-end financial information available upon request.  
Make checks payable to  
“306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association”  
PO Box 17163, Boulder, CO 80308  
Mountain Time phone 720-310-0694  
[sally306bg@gmail.com](mailto:sally306bg@gmail.com)

#### ELECTED DIRECTORS (alphabetically)

BRUCE CHASE (exp. 2024)  
Director of Membership

DEBORAH CONANT (exp. 2023)

BARBARA NEAL (exp. 2023)

MIKE PRENTICE (exp. 2024)

STEVE SNYDER (exp. 2024)

#### POSITION DIRECTORS

HISTORIAN – CLIFFORD DEETS  
(Send memorabilia)  
PO BOX 742; BREMERTON, WA 98337  
Pacific Time cell 619-405-7132  
[cldeets@att.net](mailto:cldeets@att.net)

ECHOES EDITOR – NANCY HUEBOTTER  
(For news magazine article suggestions and submissions)  
508 LEE PLACE  
PLACENTIA, CA 92870  
Pacific Time cell 714-345-3923  
[nmhuebotter306@gmail.com](mailto:nmhuebotter306@gmail.com)

2023 REUNION CHAIRMAN – STEVE SNYDER  
Pacific Time cell 562-355-0461  
[palmsny@gmail.com](mailto:palmsny@gmail.com)

PAST PRESIDENT – KEVIN CONANT  
[kevinconant306@icloud.com](mailto:kevinconant306@icloud.com)

#### Webmaster

CLIFFORD DEETS  
Use the “click here” feedback line at the bottom  
of the [www.306bg.us](http://www.306bg.us) home page

#### 306<sup>th</sup> Museum Thurlleigh

JOHN WATSON-READ  
UK Representative  
[spikeread@hotmail.com](mailto:spikeread@hotmail.com)

*The 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association was determined by the IRS to be a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) as a public charity, effective 24 July 2015.*



## A Message from 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA 2022-2024 President Sue Sharkey

I enjoy serving as President of the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA; it is a great privilege. The commitment and service of the many individuals, both present and in years past, have allowed this association to flourish and grow. Over the past year, the board has been busy in what I believe is a continuous improvement of expanding the historical knowledge of the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group.

Memorial Day is fast approaching as I write this letter. This day allows our country to pause and remember the great sacrifice of the men and women who have served in the name of freedom – freedom not only for America but for freedom in foreign countries.

To continue to honor the sacrifices made, we must never forget those who fought for us. I have often heard how our children are not being taught the history of World War II in school, never learning about Pearl Harbor, the war with Japan, and the war in Europe.

For that reason, and many others, the work of the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association, the website filled with countless pictures and documents, the reunions, this publication, and the connections we have with one another are what will keep the history alive.

The board has several committees that have been hard at work. One initiative in its early phase is a movement toward more involvement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations, the descendants of the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group.

If you want to learn more or get involved, contact Derrek Johnson at [derrekjohnson@live.com](mailto:derrekjohnson@live.com)

Our website committee, with Clayton Snyder as Chair, has also improved the website design.

If you have not visited the website, I encourage you to look; it is coming together very well.

Mary Conway, the granddaughter of Captain John (JJ) Gaydosh, a pilot with the 369<sup>th</sup> squadron, was recently appointed Secretary. Mary is a wonderful addition to the board and brings much experience from the various committees she serves on.

Three of the four officers on the board are now third generation.

I would also like to thank Kevin Conant, who has served the association well for several years, for stepping in as the Interim Secretary over the past year.

Steve Snyder is serving as Reunion chair for the upcoming reunion in Ontario, California; the reunion will be held in conjunction with the Eighth Air Force Reunion, which Steve serves as a board member. The reunion will take place on October 18<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you for being interested in the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA. I would enjoy meeting you in October in Ontario, California, the site of our next reunion.

*Sue Sharkey*

## Mary Conway Named 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA Secretary

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. There is an excellent chance I met you at a previous reunion, or at least you remember my grandfather, JJ



Gaydosh. I started to attend the reunions as a traveling companion with him nearly 15 years ago. Through reunions in Colorado Springs, Savannah, New Orleans, Dayton, and

Indianapolis, I had the privilege of listening to the stories of the 306<sup>th</sup> from our incredible veterans.

Those of you who remember JJ Gaydosh will remember him as a storyteller. My grandfather was charismatic and charming, with a distinctive laugh you could hear across the room. Throughout my childhood, he told stories of his wartime experiences, but at the 306<sup>th</sup> reunions, he would come alive whenever he got together with his “buddies.” Through these weekends, I would learn more about him as a person and the experiences he survived. I gained immense respect for the 306<sup>th</sup> bomb group by listening and learning.

After being asked to join the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association Board as Secretary, I reflected on what an honor this position means. By becoming part of the Board, I am delighted I will have the opportunity to celebrate my grandfather and his legacy. He was one of my best friends, and I am ecstatic that I will be able to continue to

connect with him in a meaningful way through an organization he cared so deeply about.

Here are a few things about me that I would like to share.

I live in Cleveland, Ohio, with my fiancé, cat, and dog.

I attended The Ohio State University and received degrees in Finance and the Russian Language.

I am currently a consultant for a boutique management firm.

I am an avid reader –306<sup>th</sup> *Echoes* has been a constant in my collection of reading material.

I am excited to report this is my first year planting a garden, so I am anxious to see what I can grow.



Pictured to the left are my grandfather and me at the Colorado Springs reunion. The second photo is me at Thurleigh in August 2022, touring the air base.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all better. ■

## Thurleigh Notes



The 306<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group Museum, Thurleigh, has received a new coat of paint and housekeeping chores have been completed in anticipation of this season’s visitors. The museum opened its doors on Sunday, 26 March and will continue to host those who stop for a visit every Sunday until October 2023. ■



## Teach the Younger Generations About World War II

by Nancy M. Huebotter  
*(Editor's contact information on page 2)*

I imagine all World War II historical organizations are suffering from the same fear: being lost in the annals of history. With nearly all our veterans gone, and the second-generation aging, it is up to the third, fourth, and follow-on generations to perpetuate the stories.

But how can they? Teaching US history to school students is nearly impossible; covering the entire history of the United States, from Colonial America to the War on Terror, in one year is impractical, leaving much ignored or not even addressed in any depth. Most high school history texts today dedicate 4 to 6 pages of narrative to the subject of World War II, which is certainly not enough to give any real consideration to the causes, events, and aftermath of the largest and deadliest conflict in human history. Instead, schools are focusing on the real-time issues in the world and preparing for the future rather than dwelling on the past.

Twenty years ago, STEM became the context of education policy or curriculum. Emphasizing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, it encompasses critical thinking, analysis, and collaboration in which students integrate these processes in world contexts. These educational requirements tend to have little emphasis on English grammar and the arts. In some school districts, a standardized curriculum dictates that history teachers spend a specific amount of time with one topic and then move on to the next, leaving very little time for added materials and assignments. Instead, students are encouraged to research a topic of interest, give some critical thought to their findings, then ask the right questions about the source of the information and its validity. There are countless resources available on the internet and in libraries, and teachers will do well to challenge their students to pursue their interests by utilizing such resources.

In other words, teachers are focusing students on how to find the information for themselves. It then becomes the teacher's task to teach students how to learn and to motivate them to pursue that which engages their attention.

An African proverb has been repeated often: "When someone dies, a library burns." To ensure our ancestors' stories are not lost in the fires of life, we must pass on our wisdom, family narratives, traditions, and histories through our stories. But those stories are at risk of being lost if we do not recognize the wealth of information those around us have to offer.

GOOGLE can provide facts and figures regarding historical events but cannot give the human perspective of those who lived through it. The 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association is doing as much as possible to keep the human aspect safeguarded and shared. The website is replete with copies of original documentation, veterans' stories, and pictures. Our veterans wanted their stories recorded and shared, but if the younger generation does not access that information, then those third, fourth, and beyond generations risk losing those emotional ties to understanding who their grandparents and great-grandparents may have been. They risk losing an appreciation of how much history, knowledge, and wisdom the older generations in our families may have.

So, what can be done to correct this situation? Even the best teachers are no substitute for parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents sharing their stories. It once was a way of life – sharing family stories. But it seems that, for the most part, this tradition no longer exists.

Many students no longer know their family stories. Studies indicate that when children hear stories about grandparents, great-grandparents, and other ancestors, a bond is created across generations, all the while preserving family history.

World War II dramatically impacted those who joined the military to serve their country. The younger generations need to know what that meant, how it felt, and how it impacted the family remaining at home. Current and future generations need to know about the life experiences of those servicemen. There should be an understanding of the social and economic impacts forced on a country at war and how those remaining at home made the most of difficult situations.

The war effort demanded developments in the fields of science and technology, advancements that forever changed life in America. Family dinner table discussions might center on some of those forward-thinking ideas and how they impacted life in general and, more

particularly, one's own family. Does family history indicate that any ancestors had a role (no matter how large or small) in those developments?

If you care about thwarting the loss of that history that originated over 80 years ago, then you need to do something about it. At a time when technology is emphasized in schools, it may be futile to challenge the established school curriculum. Instead, parents must take an active role in their student's education and encourage them to have a good foundation in writing and historical research and to examine the culture into which they were born. Our elders (and some of us identified as second-generation members) will only tell our stories when asked.

Today's youth should be urged to stop scrolling through their cell phones and spend quality time interviewing their parents, grandparents, or their great-grandparents if they are lucky enough to have them. A single hour of a conversation with someone of the older generation leaves a legacy of not only the stories they are telling but the sound of their voice. And who can deny that this one act does not capture a treasured moment in time? ■



## From eMail

Dr. Thurman Shuller, the Group Surgeon for the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, crusaded for the medical well-being of flight crews. He is highly respected for his outstanding contributions to the 306<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group and later to the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association (BGHA). As a testament to Dr. Shuller,



the highest award for service to the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA is named in his honor.

Following his military career, Dr. Shuller had a 41-year career as a pediatrician in the McAlester, Oklahoma area. Recognized for the kindness that dominated his life, a former patient of Dr. Shuller's wrote to the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA, saying, "Dr.

*Thurman Shuller was my physician for the first nine years of my life. The years were 1947-1956 at the McAlester Clinic in McAlester, Oklahoma. I was constantly ill during those years. He was the greatest physician I have ever had. I never knew he was in the military. He was held in high esteem in the community and county. I am elated to have known him. I praise God Almighty he was my physician and served in the military."*

## Attention Journalists and Non-Journalists:

Do you have an article you would like to submit to *Echoes*? If the answer is YES, I am interested in hearing from you. Please submit all articles as a Word file attached to an eMail. Do not use .pdf or any other format when providing your word document to me. Save all images as high-resolution photos attached to the eMail in .jpg format. Do not embed the images in the text. Including notations in the Word submission draft where the image should be placed is suggested. Remember – submission does not guarantee publication. Due to size constraints of the magazine, the publication of non-solicited materials may be held for a future issue.

The editor reserves the right to modify the article as appropriate.

To avoid copyright infringement, any copyrighted materials, including reprints of articles previously appearing in other publications, will not be included in *Echoes* without the expressed written consent from the author and/or editor of the original publication. This information must be included with the article submitted to the *Echoes* editor for consideration.

Articles relative to World War II, the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, and individual veterans are acceptable subjects. The focus should be on raising awareness and enhancing the education of second, third, fourth generations and beyond.

Send your articles to:

[nmhuebotter306@gmail.com](mailto:nmhuebotter306@gmail.com)

*Echoes*  
**Article Due Date for  
Summer/Fall**

**4 December 2023**

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## 2023 Reunion

*(continued from page 1)*

upgrading when the Works Progress Administration constructed two concrete runways in 1941. General aviation usage continued at the site until 1941. With the advent of the United States becoming entangled in World War II, the US Army acquired the property in 1942, and the 311<sup>th</sup> Air Base Squadron was activated. During World War II, this was a busy training center for pilots of the Lockheed P-38 “Lightning” fighter. The airfield fell under the jurisdiction of the 4<sup>th</sup> Air Force, headquartered at Hamilton Army Airfield in Marin County, California.

The 69<sup>th</sup> Observation Group arrived on 1 June 1942, and the airfield became known as the Ontario Observation Aerodrome. Training ceased at the end of World War II. An Air National Guard Training Station was established at the airport in 1949. In 1995, the training station was relocated and absorbed into the 148<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron and the 210<sup>th</sup> Weather Flight at March Air Force Base in Riverside County, California.



Ontario itself is rich in history. Aside from being home to the 15<sup>th</sup> busiest airport in the United States due to the amount of cargo traffic handled by the facility, the area is known for its agriculture. Initially, citrus farmers planted orange and lemon groves, but agricultural opportunities attracted vintners and olive growers to the site. Dairy farming also became prevalent. The land was developed by three Canadian brothers named Chaffey, who chose to designate the tract of land as Ontario after their native homeland. It was in August 1881 when George Chaffey viewed the wasteland known as the Cucamonga Desert and decided if the land was properly watered, it could become productive and profitable. The brothers

bought that land and then set about finding a means of getting water to it. Miles of cement pipe was laid for this purpose, resulting in the establishment of the San Antonio Water Company. Powering the water from deep wells led to the establishment of the Ontario Power Company.

The first scheduled reunion excursion begins Thursday morning when participants arrive at March Field Air Museum on the grounds of the March Air Reserve Base. Previously known as March Air Force Base, the military facility was named in honor of Second Lieutenant Peyton C. March, Jr., son of the Army Chief of Staff, who had been killed when his Curtiss “Jenny” crashed in Fort Worth, Texas, the previous month. His crash occurred two weeks after he had been commissioned in the regular United States Army Air Service. March is now the home of the Air Force Reserve Command’s Fourth Air Force Headquarters as well as the home to units from the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps Reserves, the California Air National Guard, and the California Army National Guard.

For almost 50 years, March AFB was a Strategic Air Command Base.

The attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 re-established March Field as a location for training aircrews. Throughout World War II, many bombardment groups performed their final training at March before embarking for duty in the Pacific.

The archives of March Field indicate entertainer Bob Hope’s first USO show was held at the base on 6 May 1941. Jack Benny later originated his radio program from March Field on 11 January 1942.



Housed in the March Field Air Museum is a display chronicling the history of US military aviation since 1917. This Museum was initially

established as a permanent home for the artifacts, photographs, records, and memories of the 475<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, the first all-Lockheed P-38 group and the only one formed overseas in Australia.



The second stop on Thursday's tour is the Planes of Fame Air Museum in Chino, California. The Museum's founder, Edward T. Maloney, focused on acquiring historically significant aircraft. Due to area redevelopment and an expanding collection of aircraft and memorabilia, the Museum itself has had a migratory history, finally settling at its present location in Chino. The Chino facility opened its Enterprise Hangar in 2002 and is designed to resemble the hangar deck of a World War II aircraft carrier. The display contains many items from the *USS Enterprise*, much of which has been donated by members of her crew.

Over the past decades, the Chino facility has expanded to include new hangars, a gift shop, a library, and a Hands-On Aviation youth education center.

The Museum's collection includes a collection of Japanese aircraft. Also in the collection are approximately 150 aircraft built in Southern California, approximately 20% of which are maintained in flyable condition.

Also, not to be missed are military vehicles, a small "Motor Pool" collection primarily of World War II vintage.



So Many Missions, So Many Airmen,  
So Many Stories To Be Told

Thursday night's dinner speaker is Greg Stathatos, owner of B-17 Archeology. This organization is dedicated to preserving first-hand

accounts of veterans' stories, the flights, and the missions of our airmen who bravely flew on the B-17 Flying Fortresses during World War II.



Friday's bus ride will take reunion participants to the Palm Springs Air Museum, a non-profit educational institution founded by Bob Pond and Pete Madison, which opened to the public on 11 November 1996.

The Museum's mission is to exhibit, educate, and eternalize the role of World War II combat aircraft and the role the pilots and American citizens had in winning the war. On hand is one of the world's largest collections of World War II warplanes, many of which were built in Southern California. The facility includes three main display hangars, a theater, a gift shop, a ramp and airport access for flight demonstrations and visiting planes, a research library, and a simulator and education center.

Saturday's adventure is dedicated to enjoying a couple of Southern California's tourist attractions.



First on the agenda is the iconic Farmer's Market on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Fairfax in Los Angeles. Easily recognized by its

famous clock tower that bears the phrase "An idea," Farmer's Market is rich in history and is one of LA's most popular shopping and dining destinations. The "idea" sprang from the entrepreneurial quest of Fred Beck and Roger Dahlhjelm, who viewed the nearly-vacant property owned by A. F. Gilmore as a potential for a "Village" where local farmers could sell their produce. The suggestion came at the height of the Depression, and with Gilmore agreeing to take a chance on the venture, the initial farmer's market

began operation in July 1934. A dozen farmers and a few other merchants parked their vehicles on the vacant lot and sold fresh produce from the back of their trucks. Over time the Farmer's Market continued to grow. As the village's popularity grew, permanent stalls were erected, and various businesses, grocers, and service providers took up residence.

During a fundraiser for the Red Cross in 1936, many stars from the nearby Hollywood movie industry worked behind the counters in the Farmer's Market shops. Shirley Temple drew a large and adoring crowd at Brock's Candies.

Over the years, notable personalities such as Marilyn Monroe, President Dwight Eisenhower, the Beatles, Frank Sinatra, and Babe Ruth were seen strolling through the premises. Chef Gordon Ramsay has hosted his show on-location, and Jimmy Kimmel has frequently engaged customers wandering through the area in his quirky feature segments.

Today, Farmers Market continues to be a favorite place to hang out. The site has continued to expand. It includes more than 120 grocers, restaurants, and shops. It is reportedly the #1 tourist attraction in Los Angeles and remains a favorite of luminaries. The site has been declared a Historic Cultural Monument. It continues to be a favorite location for grocery shopping, dining, and socializing. It is home to many multi-generational, family-owned businesses and welcomes longtime and new visitors. This "not-to-be-missed" excursion will be the highlight of Saturday's activities.



The names are a mix of actors, directors, producers, musicians, theatrical/musical groups, and fictional characters.



The tour will conclude with a visit to the Hollywood Walk of Fame and a stop at Grauman's Chinese Theater.

The Walk of Fame historic landmark extends 1.3 miles and consists of more than 2,752 stars embedded in the sidewalk that are permanent public monuments to those who have achieved success in the entertainment industry.



Grauman's Chinese Theater is characteristically known for the concrete blocks set in the forecourt, which bear the signatures, footprints, and handprints of famous motion picture personalities from the 1920s to the present day. Many stories exist to explain the origins of the footprints, one of which credits Norma Talmadge as having inspired the tradition when she accidentally stepped into the wet concrete. However, Sid Grauman's version claims it was by pure accident and occurred when he accidentally stepped into the soft cement. He followed his faux pas by asking Mary Pickford to put her footprint into the concrete.

The theater continues to serve the public as a first-run movie theater.



Saturday night's featured guest speaker is Colonel Erik L. Aufderheide, Commander of the 452D Air Mobility Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, March Air Reserve. Col. Aufderheide was named to this position during an Assumption of

Command Ceremony on 27 October 2022. His impressive military career was launched over 30 years ago. Aufderheide does not take this responsibility lightly and has avowed that he is committed to ensuring that American airmen under his command are ready and taken care of. This decorated officer has served his country through many military campaigns, engagements, and assignments. As Saturday night's speaker, Colonel Aufderheide will surely share an interesting perspective of today's military. ■





## 49th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

DoubleTree by Hilton Ontario Airport ~ Ontario, CA

October 18-22, 2023

**IMPORTANT HOTEL INFORMATION—PLEASE READ!**

### DoubleTree\*

(800) 222-8733

(Reference 'Air Force Historical' for group rate)  
or **ONLINE** hotel reservation link on our website:

[www.8thafhs.org](http://www.8thafhs.org)

\*Our block with the DoubleTree is currently **FULL** on **Wednesday, Oct. 18th ONLY!!!** There are rooms still available on that day, but **NOT** at the reunion rate. We still have plenty of rooms available in our block Oct. 16-17, & Oct. 19-23.

### Location

The DoubleTree by Hilton Ontario Airport is located at 222 North Vineyard Avenue, Ontario CA, 91764

### Shuttle Service

For those of you flying into **Ontario International Airport**, there is complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport to the hotel. To use the shuttle **TO** the DoubleTree, you **MUST** call for pickup:

**909-937-0900 option #0**

### If You Drive

Overnight self-parking is \$16.75 (inclusive) per day.

### Best Western Plus

(909) 937-6800 (front desk)

(Reference '8th Air Force Historical Society'  
for group rate)

You may wish to reserve a room on Wednesday, and then relocate to the DoubleTree on Thursday, or continue your stay at the Best Western Plus.

### Location

**Directly across the street from  
the DoubleTree Hotel!**

Best Western Plus Ontario Airport is located at 209 North Vineyard Avenue, Ontario CA, 91764

### Shuttle Service

For those of you flying into **Ontario International Airport**, there is complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport to the hotel. To use the shuttle **TO** Best Western Plus, you **MUST** call for pickup:

**909-937-6800**

### If You Drive

Overnight self-parking is **COMPLIMENTARY**.

### RESERVATION INFORMATION

Group Name: *8th Air Force Historical Society*

Reunion Dates: October 18-22, 2023

Rate: \$179+14% = \$204.06 per night. Rates are offered 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion based on availability.

Cut off Date: **9/23/2023**

Cancellation Policy: All reservations have a 72 hour cancellation policy, or attendee will be charged one night room rate plus tax.

### WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

ScootAround: (888) 441-7575 or [ScootAround.com](http://ScootAround.com)  
*Reserve chair rentals early!*

### RESERVATION INFORMATION

Group Name: *8th Air Force Historical Society*

Reunion Dates: October 18-22, 2023

Rate: \$129 (K)+13.75%=\$142.75\*

\$139 (2Q)+13.75%=\$158.11\*

*\*Includes breakfast*

Cut off Date: **10/11/2023**

Cancellation Policy: Reservations **MUST** be cancelled by 4pm day of arrival, or attendee will be charged one night room rate plus tax.

*PLEASE contact **ME** ASAP with any questions!*

Debra Kujawa

Managing Director

912-748-8884

[ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org](mailto:ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org)



## REUNION SCHEDULE 49th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

DoubleTree by Hilton Ontario Airport ~ Ontario, CA

October 18-22, 2023

### Wednesday, October 18

8:00am — 5:00pm Reunion Registration open  
6:00pm — 7:00pm Welcome Reception, followed by dinner on your own  
7:00pm — 9:00pm 8th AFHS Board Meeting  
7:00pm — until Hospitality Suites remain open throughout reunion

### Thursday, October 19

7:30am — 8:30am Breakfast on your own\*  
8:00am — 5:00pm Reunion Registration open **TBD\*\***  
8:30am — 4:30pm **March Field Air Museum & Planes of Fame Museum ~ Includes Lunch**  
6:00pm — 9:00pm Cash Bar Open  
7:00pm — 9:00pm Buffet dinner and program: **Greg Stathatos ~ B-17 Archaeology Founder**

### Friday, October 20

7:30am — 8:30am Breakfast on your own  
8:00am — 5:00pm Reunion Registration **TBD**  
7:45am — 8:45am Group Meetings  
9:00am — 4:00pm **Palm Springs Air Museum ~ Includes Lunch**  
6:00pm — 9:00pm Cash Bar Open  
7:00pm — 9:00pm Rendezvous Dinners

### Saturday, October 21

7:30am — 8:30am Breakfast on your own  
8:00am — 5:00pm Reunion Registration **TBD**  
8:45am — 10:15am General Membership Meeting  
12:00pm — 4:00pm 8th AFHS Board Meeting  
11:00am — 4:30pm **L. A. Farmer's Market & Hollywood [Includes Grauman's Chinese Theatre]**  
6:00pm — 9:00pm Cash Bar Open  
7:00pm — 10:00pm Gala Dinner and Program ~ **Col Erik L Aufderheide, USAF AFRC 452**

### Sunday, October 22

7:30am — 8:30am Breakfast on your own

**\*Breakfast is NOT included in our reunion package...please check times with hotel.**

**\*\*TBD Registration may be closed during the time scheduled  
for certain tours and/or group meetings.**

**Please pick up registration packets at your earliest convenience.**

**\*It is important that you be in the bus boarding area  
at least ten [10] minutes prior to the scheduled departure times.  
All tours require a minimum of 45 participants, unless otherwise stated.  
Staff gratuities ARE included in the tour prices ~ Please remember to tip your driver!**



**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**49th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION**  
 DoubleTree by Hilton, Ontario Airport, CA  
 October 18-22, 2023

REGISTRATION CUT-OFF DATE IS September 23, 2023 (NO refunds on cancellations past this date)	Price p/p	# of People	TOTAL
<b>DUES:</b> The principal attendee <i>MUST</i> be a <b>CURRENT</b> member of the 8th AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are <b>NOT CURRENT</b> , or a member, please pay your yearly dues here:	\$ 60	#	\$
<b>REGISTRATION FEE (non-refundable):</b> EVERY attendee <b>MUST</b> pay registration fee	\$ 45	#	\$
<b><u>DINNERS</u></b>			
Thursday, Oct 19: Dinner Buffet ~ Chef's delightful favorites welcoming you to California!	\$ 60	#	\$
Friday, Oct 20: Rendezvous Dinners—Rosemary Infused Chicken & all the trimmings!	\$ 55	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 21: GALA Banquet (Please select one entrée per person)			
Grilled Flat Iron Steak (beef) with red wine jus de veau and sides	\$ 55	#	\$
Pepper Crusted Salmon (seafood) with amazing sides	\$ 55	#	\$
Vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, etc—Please indicate type: Thurs ___ Fri ___ Sat ___	\$ 55	#	\$
<b>TOUR OPTIONS: <u>LUNCH INCLUDED</u> on Thursday &amp; Friday!</b>			
Thursday, Oct 19: 8:30am-4:30pm ~ March Field Air Museum & Planes of Fame ~ Includes LUNCH*	\$ 44*	#	\$
Friday, Oct 20: 9:00am-4:00pm ~ Palm Springs Air Museum ~ Includes LUNCH*	\$ 60*	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 21: 11:00am-4:30pm ~ L A Farmer's Market & Hollywood ~ <b>LUNCH ON YOUR OWN!</b>	\$ 40	#	\$
<b>Total amount payable to: 8th AFHS</b>			\$

Please PRINT. If registering a veteran, please list their name, first. **MAXIMUM of FOUR [4] persons per registration form!**

MEMBER NAME (for name tag): \_\_\_\_\_ WWII VETERAN? \_\_\_\_\_  
 BG/FG Affiliation (for Rendezvous Dinner seating) \_\_\_\_\_ Post WWII Veteran: \_\_\_\_\_ (Branch of Military): \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DAYTIME PH #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPOUSE or GUEST #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 GUEST #2: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST #3: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DAYTIME PH # if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ PH #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WILL BE USING A WHEELCHAIR ON TOURS: \_\_\_\_\_ NEED HYDRAULIC LIFT?: \_\_\_\_\_  
 IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD —M/C; VISA; or AmEx (a 3% convenience fee will be added):  
 CARD #: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your contact information will only be shared with attendees.*

MAIL completed form with check or credit card info to: 8th AFHS ~ 68 Kimberly's Way ~ Jasper, GA 30143-4769

IF paying by credit card, you may SCAN and email form to: ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org

Questions? PLEASE CALL: (912) 748-8884

# 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association Reunion Hospitality Room to Feature PX Items

For those attending the October 2023 Eighth Air Force Reunion in Ontario, California, the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association will host a Hospitality Room where the Group's PX will be open to the public and will feature the following items:



Tan Cap - \$24.00



Olive Cap - \$24.00



Lapel Pin - \$5.00  
Challenge Coin - \$10.00

306<sup>th</sup> and Squadron  
Patches - \$8.00



Golf Shirt (S - XL) - \$34.00  
(XXL) - \$36.00



Tee Shirt (S - XL) - \$18.00  
(XXL) - \$21.00

**Please note: No mailed purchase requests are being accepted at this time.**

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**Donation Update:**

**Your Dollars Sustain the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA Mission**

Because the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA does not charge membership dues, we depend on your tax-deductible donations to support the continuing education mission of our organization. Donations may be made online at [www.306bg.us](http://www.306bg.us) or mailed to the Treasurer at the address below. Many thanks to those of you who have donated to date in 2023. As of 17 June, the association has received a total of \$5012.07 from 42 supporters.

**Memorial Donations**

Please consider this significant way of honoring the memory of a veteran or other person who has been part of the 306<sup>th</sup> family by noting “306<sup>th</sup> Memorial Fund” along with the veterans name you are honoring on the memo line of your check or as a notation when using PayPal. For additional information regarding memorial donations, see page 22 of this issue of *Echoes*.

**All donations are extremely important to the continuing education mission of the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association. Although donations are optional, they are greatly appreciated!**

**DONATION FOR THE  
306<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

Make checks payable to:  
**306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association**  
Send to:  
Sally Smith, 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA Treasurer  
PO Box 17163  
Boulder, CO 80308

Name \_\_\_\_\_

By initialing here ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), I hereby confirm this current contact information should be used for my FREE membership registration/renewal for 2023, indicating my continuing interest in the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is being made in memory of:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to 306<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Women Who Broke Code

It has taken nearly 80 years for the stories of the women who secretly served as Code Breakers during World War II to be revealed.

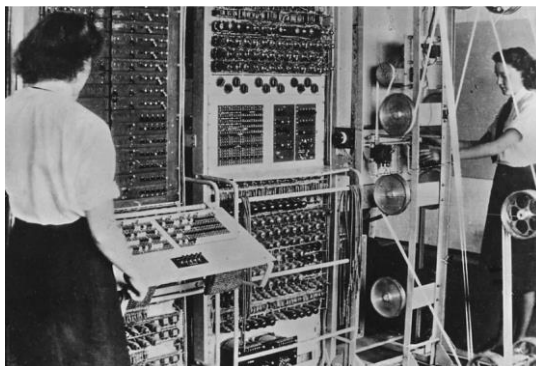
Nearly 11,000 women were recruited for the top-secret cryptology work necessary to decipher enemy communications, but their story was withheld from public acknowledgment for decades due to the sensitive nature of their duties.

One of World War II's best-kept secrets, work that could be characterized as both frustrating and exhilarating, played a critical part in the defeat of the Axis power. Housed in secret locations, these women worked night and day to unravel the endless communications the enemy was sending that revealed diplomatic messages, troop movements, and battle plans. Their tenacity resulted in deciphering encryption systems and the development of machines that allowed these code breakers to perform their tasks in a quicker and more efficient manner. The high-speed machines that resulted from what had been time-consuming, tedious work broke German messages encrypted by the German's Enigma machine, intercepted enemy communications, and ensured that encrypted US messages were secure and error-free. This protocol is now regarded as "cybersecurity."

With young men called into the service of their country, there left a massive requirement for filling the roles of code breakers.

The armed services targeted the female population, especially calling upon college students and school teachers. Women, who were neither engaged nor married, were recruited from small towns and elite colleges. Those who excelled in mathematics and world languages and liked to work crossword puzzles were considered ideal for the job. Thousands of military personnel or volunteers wanted to align themselves with the desire to serve wherever needed in defeating the enemy. Once accepted into the position, the women were asked to sign an Oath of Secrecy and were constantly reminded that "Loose lips sink ships." Those who failed to uphold the oath were considered guilty of treason and subjected to the appropriate penalties. As a result, many of these women never disclosed their roles and remained silent, never revealing their crucial and far-reaching contributions to the Allied victory. The veil of secrecy nearly erased the women's stories,

which until recently were untold. Undoubtedly many codebreakers did not realize how their wartime work coincided with the development of modern computer technology and the information security we have today. These cryptologists are widely considered STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) pioneers whose contributions opened the door for women in the military and have helped shape information security efforts for future generations.



On 18 October 2022, recognition was finally paid to the women cryptologists of World War II when the United States Post Office issued a Forever stamp. A US Postal press release describes the stamp as featuring "an image from a World War II-era recruitment poster with an overlay of characters from the 'Purple' code. The Purple code, used by the Japanese government to encrypt diplomatic messages, was cracked by Genevieve Grotjan, a woman cryptologist with the US Army's Signal Intelligence Service. This breakthrough allowed the US to read and exploit Japanese diplomatic messages for the duration of the war."

In the pane selva of the stamp, seemingly random letters (ZRPB QF UB SWRORJLVWV RIZRUOGZDULL, FLSKHU, DQDOBCH, and VHFUHW) can be deciphered to reveal some keywords. The reverse side of the pane discloses the cipher needed to read the words.

Anyone interested in learning more about the women code breakers of World War II are encouraged to pick up a copy of Liza Mundy's book **Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II**. For those who enjoy being challenged by word puzzles and code-breaking, you should visit your nearby post office to purchase a pane of the commemorative stamps that pay tribute to those women who performed invaluable work during World War II. ■

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## Visiting a Dear Friend

By Steve Snyder

On April 16, I was in the Phoenix area to make a SHOT DOWN PowerPoint presentation at a luncheon meeting of the Daedalians Willie Flight 82. I visited Em Christianson, who recently moved from Dallas, Texas.

Em is delightful, and I have not seen her since the 2019 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA Reunion in Savannah, Georgia. She resides at Royal Oaks Lifecare Community in Sun City. She is still the same sweet person and sharp as a tack. We reminisced, and she told me stories about the Association back in the days when it consisted of just 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group veterans.

During World War II, Em began working at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which became NASA in 1958. She did Top Secret work at Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in Hampton, Virginia. Em left NACA to marry Maurice E. “Chris” Christianson in July 1945.



Chris had been a copilot in the 368<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron of the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group on William Breslin’s B-17 “St. Anthony” crew (AC #231454) and completed 32 missions in just four months: April 29, 1944, to August 20, 1944.

After the war, Chris was a pilot for American Airlines, flying 747s. He retired after 32 years of service. Chris was elected Vice President of the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA in 1989 and President the following year.



Em loved attending veteran reunions with Chris beginning with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society in 1975 and then with the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA when it started its independent reunions in 1983. Even after Chris died on June 30, 1999, at 75, Em continued attending reunions, never missing one until Covid hit in 2020. Chris and Em were married for 58 years.

For many years, Em attended both the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA Reunion and the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS Reunion, where she and I were the only attendees representing the 306<sup>th</sup>.

Em served three-terms on the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA Board of Directors and received the William “Bill” Houlihan Award in 2015.

She is truly a grand Southern Lady! ■

## In Search of the Toby Mug

Occasionally someone sends a query to the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association asking if there is any information on where to acquire a Toby Mug.

The iconic Toby Mug that first appeared in the movie “*Twelve O’Clock High*,” an exact replica manufactured by Archbury Classic Collections, is sought after by many World War II historians. In the film, the Toby Mug was poised on the mantel in the Officer’s Club and was used to covertly alert military personnel of a planned mission the following day.

The Summer/Fall 2016 issue of *Echoes* published an article on the history of the mug.

As the official licensee of the Twentieth Century Fox, *Twelve O’Clock High* Toby Jug, Mr. Peter Plumb was able to use photos and movie clips to carefully reproduce this flawlessly accurate replica of the famous mug.

A new edition of the famous mug has been in production and is even closer to the original movie mug than the previous version. The new mug reflects long-awaited changes to the mold that fixed some inaccuracies and put a lot of detail back in.

Sadly, in November 2020, Mr. Plumb passed away. However, part owner of Archbury Classic Collections, Ms. Shelly, and Pete’s children are continuing the business in his honor.

In addition to the Toby Mug replica, a smaller (coffee mug) size version is now available. The 16oz sized Toby Mug is an exact replica of the original prop used – just in miniature. To own either version of this iconic piece of history, contact Archbury Classic Collections at <https://www.archbury.net>. The coffee mug is also available from Amazon. ■



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## Antrobus Awarded for Outstanding Individual Contributions to Local History



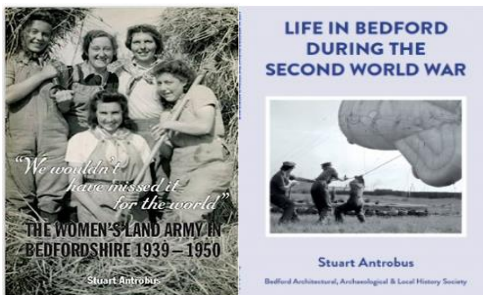
Stuart Antrobus, a long-time friend of the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association (BGHA), and frequent *Echoes* contributor, recently received from the Trustees of the British Association for Local History (the organization that exists to promote the advancement of public education through the study of local history), the

Award for Outstanding Individual Contributions for 2023 in recognition of his “extensive and long-standing voluntary work in local history,” relating to the study and dissemination of over 20 years of research into the Women’s Land Army in Bedfordshire.

The purpose of this award is to publicly honor local historians of all ages who have made outstanding and significant voluntary contributions to the subject in their own areas and more widely. Such contributions might include raising awareness of the subject of developing innovative ways of collecting and disseminating research into local history.

The most important thing the recipients have in common is their enthusiasm for local history and their ability and inclination to share this with others.

Mr. Antrobus is the author of numerous articles, written for Bedford Local History Magazine as well as for the national Local History Magazine. His detailed, well-illustrated history *We Wouldn’t Have Missed It for the World: The Women’s Land Army in Bedfordshire, 1939-1950*, was published in 2008. More recently his publication, *Life in Bedford During the Second World War*, tells the story of how Bedfordians’ lives were affected by the dramatic upheaval of war between 1939 and 1945. ■



## Silver Star Research Uncovers Family Connections

In his quest to unravel a research question, David Ellen posted a query on the 306<sup>th</sup> Facebook page regarding his search for information about the Silver Star. Ray Well responded by providing a link to the American Air Museum in Duxford, England.

Mr. Ellen was delving into the history of the Silver Star that was awarded in the 1990s to a member of his father-in-law’s B-17 *Unbearable II* crew. Norman Armbrust and his wife, Lori, and David’s parents, James D. Ellen, III, and Betty Ellen, attended the award ceremony.



The Silver Star is the third-highest military combat decoration.

Actions that merit the Silver Star must be such a high degree that they are above those required for all other US combat

decorations but do not merit the award of the Medal of Honor or a Distinguished Service Cross.

In 1990, Norman Armbrust, pilot of *Unbearable II* and navigator Robert J. Ellwood, nominated Robert Leo Myllykoski, radio operator, for his heroic act of retrieving the ball turret gunner, saving his life. On July 26, 1943, flak hit *Unbearable II* during a bombing raid over Germany, and crashed near Dupholz. To assist the ball turret gunner’s escape from the damaged aircraft, Myllykoski removed the gunner’s parachute, hand-cranked him from the turret, then helped him back into the parachute and bail out.

Myllykoski and other crew members became POWs for the next 20 months.

Twenty-five years later, after submitting Myllykoski’s name for the award, and thanks to the efforts of Armbrust and Ellwood, Myllykoski was awarded the Silver Star.

Much of this information was found by accessing the link <https://www.americanairmuseum.com> then searching for the veteran of interest by entering his/her name in the SEARCH window.

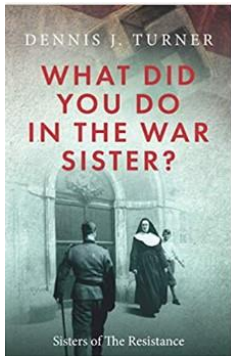
David Ellen wants to remind researchers, especially those just beginning to gather information on their veterans, that the American Air Museum is a rich resource for discovering the experiences of the American men and women who served in Britain. ■



## From the Bookshelf

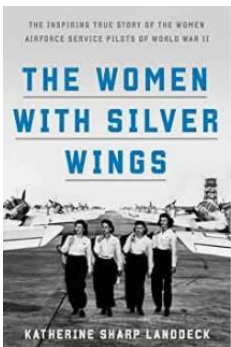


The ever-expanding list of books regarding World War II subtopics is becoming formidable, and choosing a “good read” from that list can be a bit daunting. The following eclectic selections will perhaps assist with that decision-making process.



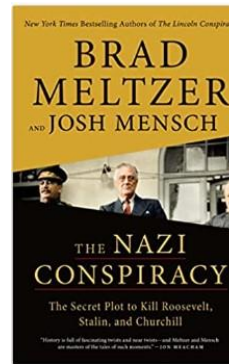
***What Did You Do in the War, Sister?*** by University of Dayton law professor Dennis Turner is a fictional memoir with genesis from hundreds of letters and other written accounts by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. During World War II, these women living in German-occupied Belgium and Italy found their everyday

contemplative, disciplined lives upended in a country controlled by the Nazis. Throughout occupied territories, the Catholic Sisters became active members of the Nazi Resistance. From running contraband to hiding Jews and downed American pilots, from spying for the Allies to small acts of sabotage, these courageous women risked their lives to help defeat the Reich.



***The Women With Silver Wings***, by Katherine Sharp Landdeck, is the true story of America’s unsung heroines of World War II. When the US Army Air Forces called for women pilots to aid the war effort, just over 1,100 women from throughout the United States stepped up to the challenge.

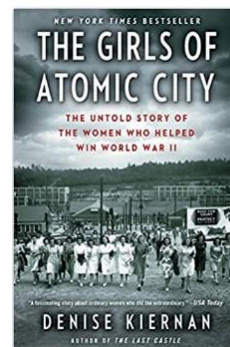
Although frequently at odds with each other, Nancy Love and Jacqueline Cochran combined their inspirational and innovative ideas to form the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), which allowed women to serve their country and prove women aviators were just as skilled as men. Although not authorized to serve in combat, these women ferried bombers, towed flying shooting targets, and piloted complex aircraft that men were too terrified to attempt. As the war concluded, the women’s service was no longer needed; the program was disbanded, and the women were sent home. Over the next few decades, these women were forced to lobby for their recognition as military veterans and their place in history.



***The Nazi Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill***, by Brad Meltzer with John Mensch, is a historical account with elements of a spy thriller.

In 1943, as the war against Nazi Germany raged in Europe, the Allied leaders met at what became known as the Teheran Conference. Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill tried to show a united front, but that was far from the truth. Roosevelt felt he needed to call a face-to-face meeting of his two counterparts to get them to agree to a common purpose of defeating Nazi Germany and its Axis allies and to decide some of the most strategic details of the war. Differing personalities, goals, and individual needs made this nearly an impossible task. Although slated to be a secret conference, the Nazis discovered the planned meeting, and an assassination plot was conceived. This true story is filled with daring rescues, body doubles, and political intrigue.

Had the plot succeeded, a world-shattering disaster would have occurred, and history would have changed dramatically.



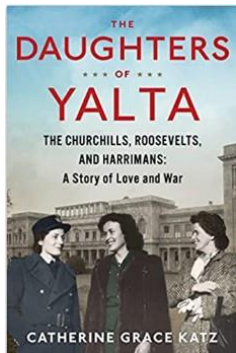
***The Girls of Atomic City*** by Denise Kiernan is another celebration of women whose contributions to the World War II effort have been overlooked.

Oak Ridge, Tennessee, did not exist until people from different social backgrounds throughout the United States were brought together to establish a community where none existed before the war. The defined purpose was to work on a project that none of them knew anything about.

The site’s perimeter was strictly controlled with wire fences, guarded gates, and patrolling guards.

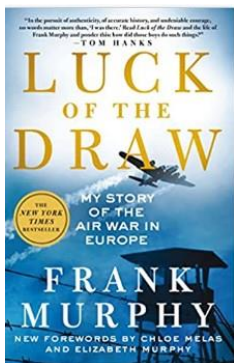
All employees had to sign a security declaration. Mail was censored, and lie detectors were used during security checks. Everyone was issued color-coded badges that restricted where they could go. Women staffed such positions as janitors, saleswomen, chemists, accountants, managers, telephone operators, and administrators, all without

knowing the true purpose of their employment. The story follows several women who lived and worked at what was known as Site X and showed the commitment of these women to contribute to the war effort. These women were making fuel for the atomic bomb – only they did not know it until the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.



***The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans – A Story of Love and War*** by Catherine Grace Katz tells the story of three young women: Sarah Churchill (daughter of Winston Churchill), Anna Roosevelt (Daughter of Franklin Roosevelt), and Kathleen Harriman (daughter of Averell Harriman), all

of whom were chosen by their fathers to accompany them to the Yalta Conference in February 1945. Each daughter plays a multifaceted role: diplomat, confidante, and keeper of her father’s secrets. Their devotion to their fathers and political savvy made their roles, although unofficial, nonetheless important. The Yalta Conference, scheduled for a single week, focused on planning the fate of a post-war world, but tensions during the conference at times threatened to tear apart alliances between Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin just as victory was close at hand. Although tested periodically, the remarkable relationships between fathers and daughters were transformative experiences and strengthened by the history they witnessed.



***Luck of the Draw*** by Frank Murphy is an inspiring autobiographical account of Murphy’s survival in a German POW camp. A navigator aboard a B-17 and flying with the Mighty Eighth’s 100<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, he was on his twenty-first mission on 10 October 1943 over Germany when he was shot down and ultimately became a prisoner of

war at Stalag Luft III in Sagan, Germany. The book recounts his experiences of the air war in Europe and his fight to stay alive during his months of captivity. ■

## When Books Went to War

The axiom “Necessity is the Mother of Invention” certainly applies to many social, political, scientific, and cultural changes brought on by World War II.

Resourcefulness followed a Victory Book campaign organized by librarians to alleviate boredom on the part of the US military during their interludes in the fighting, on long bombing flights, and in field hospitals.

But the campaign, only moderately successful, pointed out how impractical hard-covered books could be.

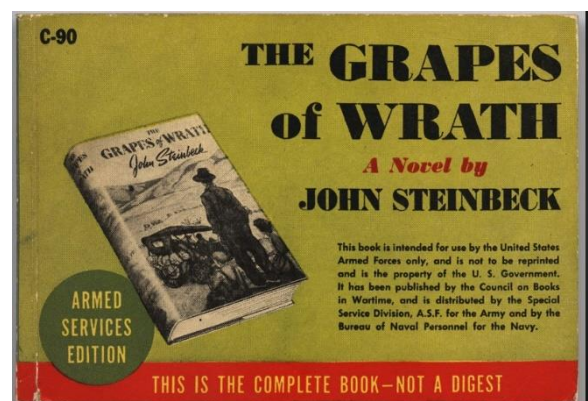
The War Department and the publishing industry stepped up with an extraordinary plan for printing paperback books to rescue the idea of providing reading material to the troops. The Armed Services Edition paperback books were born. They came in two sizes: one to fit in a uniformed shirt pocket, the other to fit in the pants. These books were printed horizontally, not vertically; each page was shaped like a postcard and contained two narrow print columns. This format was thought to be easier to read and would conserve the usage of precious paper.

Two of the most popular books were ***The Great Gatsby*** by F. Scott Fitzgerald, which heretofore had received less than moderate sales, and Betty Smith’s ***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn***.

Both books became instant classics.

Those in the military, on average, had completed an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade education and very rarely read books. However, to ward off boredom and out of sheer desperation, the men would pick up a book simply for the entertainment value.

Over 122 million copies of the more than 1300 titles, both fiction and non-fiction, published by the Armed Services Edition, were distributed.



## **War Separates Then Reunites Brothers**

By Ida Merritt



My father, M/Sgt Forest Goodwill, and my uncle, Pfc. Raymond Goodwill, relayed these events in parts and pieces to me for years. I first heard the funny parts of the story relating to a B-17 at my father's funeral when my uncle told the story. Perhaps it was safe to relate it then because my father could no longer get in trouble.

My father's family had hard times during the Depression.

There were three brothers; two, my father and his older brother, were very close in age, and eight years later came their brother Raymond. In 1931, their mother died of tuberculosis after a long illness. In 1932, their father declared bankruptcy and lost their home and farm. In 1933, their father was paralyzed in a work accident and died three months later. The two older boys tried to work, go to school, and care for their younger brother, but in short order, they were "encouraged" by the local police and social workers to surrender Raymond to an orphanage.

The next few years were tough, but the older brothers made their way separately, and Ray grew healthy and intelligent at the orphanage.

Eventually, the two older brothers found work in the town where Ray lived so they could all be close together.

On October 1, 1941, my father enlisted in the Army Air Corps. Little did he know that the next time he would return to his home county would be in September 1945.

Forest Goodwill became a crew chief in the

369<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron of the 306<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group. He was at Air Station 111 (Thurleigh) from September 1942 to August 1945. Older brother Leland was hospitalized in a tuberculosis sanitarium in 1943 until he died in 1951. Raymond graduated from high school in 1942 and soon enlisted in the Army. Ray showed leadership skills and intelligence in his training and was transferred to an officers' training program until D-Day. After that, there was a belief that the war in Europe could be won with one more big push. Officers would no longer be needed, so the trainees were all transferred to artillery training.

Forest was concerned about Ray's future as a large-caliber machine gunner, especially when he heard Ray was shipping out for Europe.

Because troop movements are highly classified, Forest could not know where or when. He had heard about the upcoming campaign, and he knew where the staging for D-Day had occurred. Based on the clues Ray had given him, he guessed that Ray would land in Southampton and temporarily stay somewhere in Salisbury Plain until being shipped to the front.

Nothing in Forest Goodwill's life led him to believe he was entitled to favors, and I cannot imagine him ever asking for one. He also had the horrible feeling that if he did not see Ray before he left for the front, he might not see him again. Machine gun nests were a prime target in infantry battles. He figured the only people with access to the classified info about troop movements, which could tell him when his brother landed, would be in the base commander's office. He wrote a letter to the base commander outlining his situation and asking for a sign when his brother landed in England, and he would do the rest. He never expected any response, but he knew he would regret it if he did not try.

Several days later, a jeep pulled up at the hardstand where Forest was working. The messenger handed him an envelope and left. In the envelope was a pass with the destination filled in as Salisbury Plain.

That sounds like a happy ending, right?

No. Remember, this is real life. In the Army. In wartime.

Wandering around England during the war was challenging.

Most route and directional signs had been

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removed from roadways to hamper possible invading forces or spies. It was easy to become lost or confused about which direction to go.

In November 1944, M/Sgt Goodwill went to Salisbury Plain in search of a brother. He wore his dress uniform with all his ribbons attached should he need to impress someone to schmooze his way in. His first stop was the Red Cross. Unlike the accommodating folks in Bedford, this Red Cross was focused on security and would not disclose any details. Consequently, he was unable to obtain any helpful information. There were several separate areas for the arrival of American troops that were referred to as “cages” since there was minimal communication in or out.

After a full day of dead ends and refusals, Goodwill was finally given the name of the commanding officer of Raymond’s platoon and was permitted to see him. M/Sgt Goodwill was 28 years old. Ray’s commanding officer in front of him was no more than 22 or 23.

Goodwill was comfortable and sure of himself; the young kid before him was not. In his commanding voice, Goodwill stated that he was there to see his brother, Pfc. Raymond Goodwill. After a bit of stammering, the kid told him that Pfc. Goodwill was not there.

He had given him a pass to go to London to see his brother.

Forest Goodwill took a couple of breaths to let that sink in. Then he asked for paper and a pen and wrote down detailed directions for Ray to get to Bedford and then to the Red Cross Enlisted Man’s Club, where they would direct him. As he handed the paper to Junior, he told him that when Ray returned, he would give him these directions along with another pass to see his brother. Junior agreed and nearly saluted Goodwill first.

My father told me that part of the story, but Ray relayed the next part in 2019. Ray returned to his outfit and was immediately called to his CO’s office. He was given the sheet of paper Forest had written and a five-day pass. He asked if he should leave in the morning but was told to leave immediately.

Ray took the train to London, where he transferred to the train that would take him to Bedford. He slept a few hours in London station and arrived in Bedford in the morning.

He made his way to the Enlisted Man’s Club, where he was greeted with open arms. They were expecting him. He barely finished his coffee and pastry before a

soldier came in and told him he was his transportation to the airbase.

At the gate at Thurleigh, they asked Ray for his ID and then handed him a visitor’s pass to carry while on base that had already been filled out. The guard then directed the jeep driver to deliver Raymond to M/Sgt Goodwill at the 369<sup>th</sup> hardstands. As they passed various airmen, Ray often heard them shout, “It’s the kid!!” Forest always referred to Ray as his kid brother. The reunion on the hardstand was joyous. Ray had never been close to an airplane, and he was amazed by the size of the B-17. He was also surprised by the barracks where Forest and several other crew chiefs lived. He described it as a cross between an army barracks and Grandma’s house. They had lived there for over two years and added lots of furniture and homey touches. Crew chiefs can fix or build anything out of anything.

The brothers had not seen each other for over three years.

They talked through the whole first night outside the barracks. Then they got serious and visited Bledsoe, Thurleigh, and Bedford. They had a studio photograph taken in Bedford to send to their brother Leland.

Forest still checked on his crew and his aircraft daily.

One day, at the hardstand, he handed Ray a parachute and helped him put it on. He told him that some repairs had been done to the plane and that they needed to take it up on a check ride to see if everything was working okay. After Ray was buckled in, Forest said, “See ya later.”

Ray panicked and asked why Forest was not going. Forest answered that it might be dangerous. Ray was so scared he could barely breathe. He was confident he would vomit on takeoff, but he managed to keep it down.

At 95, he relived those feelings and said that once he started breathing and looking down, it was the most exciting thing he had ever experienced. What a ride!

Their visit came to an end, and it was time for goodbyes.

Forest put Ray on a train in Bedford.

He said that night was the longest he had passed in the war, wondering what would happen to Raymond.

Ray did fine. His platoon became part of the 69<sup>th</sup> Artillery and worked their way into Germany.

It was his unit that met up with the Russians on the Elbe. That was a joyous day, but Ray was not there. A few days before, a die-hard sniper shot him in the leg. He was transferred to an Army hospital in Paris.

He was there on VE day when he liberated some crutches and went out on the street to join a party for the ages.

After the war and returning home, Ray took advantage of the GI bill and became a high school mathematics teacher. After getting a master's degree, he became a business manager for the

school district. Forest returned to the excellent job as a machinist he had held before the war and quickly married a war widow with a toddler daughter. My parents were married for 64 years. Both Ray and Forest married women with lots of brothers and sisters. Both became beloved members of those large families. After brother Leland's death, Ray and Forest were the only ones left from their family.

They remained very close for the rest of their lives. ■

## National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force


# Flags of the Fallen: 26,000 Flags / One Mission

In 2021, to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force opening in Pooler, Georgia, the museum began hosting a Memorial Day weekend event honoring service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Retired Army Colonel Brent Bracewell and his committee wanted to physically remind visitors to the Memorial Day event of the young men and women who lost their lives. The goal of the inaugural event was to create a visual display that would make an impact. The 26,000 flags, each representing an individual, are placed in rows, one foot apart, and bear the 48-star American flag, the flag under which the men of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force served. Many are buried under this flag.

This unique Memorial Garden display has become the centerpiece of the Memorial Day weekend events. The first year, over 150 community volunteers worked two days to place the flags.

For the past two years, the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association has proudly donated financially to this event. ■



Unfortunately, Amazon has opted to discontinue its AmazonSmile donation program. The 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association benefitted from the program when a member designated the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA as the recipient of .05% of the price for each eligible item purchased.

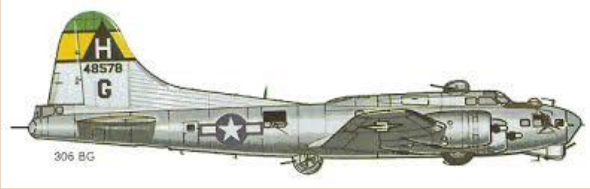
Considered an ideal opportunity to support charities while doing regular shopping, for frequent Amazon users, this was an additional perk and a great way to effortlessly give back to charities.

Thank you to each of you who designated the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA as the recipient of donations from the AmazonSmile program.



In keeping with the opportunity to give the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association website and *Echoes* newsmagazine a fresh look, the nameplates of both are sporting a new look. Enjoy this issue of *Echoes* and visit the internet site at [www.306bg.us](http://www.306bg.us) to see upgrades that are being implemented. Watch for additional web page changes as they become available.

## Given In Memory Of...



**Victor Rose**, 369<sup>th</sup> Ball Turret Gunner  
by Victor Rose, Jr.

**James Frank Standlee**, 369<sup>th</sup> Engineer/Gunner  
by LeAnn Standlee and family

**John W. Corcoran**, 367<sup>th</sup> Waist Gunner  
by Kathleen Job

**Robert K. Bentley**, 423<sup>rd</sup> Waist Gunner  
by Colleen Bentley

**Herbert W. Hawkes**, 423<sup>rd</sup> Engineer/TTG  
by Holt Carson

**John R. Grimm**, 367<sup>th</sup> Armament Officer  
by John Grimm

**George S. Monser**, 368<sup>th</sup> Waist Gunner  
by Carolyn Kraft

**John W. Sasser**, 368<sup>th</sup> Pilot and crew of "Tailwind"  
by Phillip Sasser

**Robert W. Davenport**, 423<sup>rd</sup> Pilot  
by David Davenport

*Gifts may be made in memory of 306<sup>th</sup> veterans or family by sending a check payable to the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association with the designation "306<sup>th</sup> Memorial Fund" on the memo line of the check. Send the check to Sally Smith, Treasurer, PO Box 17163, Boulder, CO 80308. All gifts made will be recognized in the twice-yearly publication of **Echoes**. Expenditure of these funds is at the direction of the Board of Directors.*

## In Memoriam

*Obituaries – Veteran death information should be submitted to Barbara Neal, P.O. Box 682530, Park City, UT 84068, barb306neal@gmail.com, cell (435) 655-1500.*

**Davenport, Robert W, pilot (423<sup>rd</sup>)** passed away in Effort, PA on 22 April 2023 at 100 years old. He attended and graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, and then worked for various companies as a mechanical engineer. He enjoyed sailing and was a member of the Northern New Jersey Power Squadron. Surviving are sons John, Carl and David, daughter Joyce, eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

**Esper, Dwain A. Jr**, bombardier (367<sup>th</sup> & 369<sup>th</sup>, Andrew Kata crew) of Los Angeles, CA, passed away 13 April 2022, age 100. After completing the required combat missions, he remained with the 306<sup>th</sup>, appointed as Group Historian and authoring all of the 1945 "306<sup>th</sup> BG War Diaries." After the war, he attended UCLA and then became a sportswriter for various Los Angeles area newspapers including the Herald-Examiner.

**Sosnowski, Chester S**, engineer (367<sup>th</sup>, William Turner crew), 97, died 7 December 2022, in Highland, NJ. He became the Maintenance Supervisor for Muhlenberg Gardens in Jersey City after the War. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, daughter Lynn, and son Larry.

**Vickers, Robert J**, bombardier (367<sup>th</sup>, Paul Bailey crew), and POW, passed away 7 February 2023, in Clarence, MO, at age 100. His aircraft was shot down on the 12 Sep 44 mission to bomb Ruhland, becoming a POW in the same Stalag as Clayton Nattier. Before the war, he attended the University of Missouri and after the war became a lifelong farmer. Surviving are son Robert, daughter Deborah, five granddaughters, and eleven great grandchildren.

**Zahniser, Paul N**, navigator (423<sup>rd</sup>, John Endicott crew), of Spring Hills, FL, died 17 February 2022, at age 96. He attended Grove City College, graduating with a BS in Commerce, and then worked for Union Carbide Company in New York and West Virginia. He later became Marine Insurance Manager for Cities Service Tanker Corporation, and then for American Dredging Company of New Jersey. After retiring, he moved to Florida. He also was a member of the Masonic Organization. Surviving family include daughter Christine, sons Joseph and Thomas, five grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

**Zarcoff, Samuel**, weatherman (18<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron), of Los Angeles, CA, passed away 8 March 2023, age 98. As a weatherman, he was stationed with numerous Bombardment Groups, both B-17 and B-24 units, over the course of the War, including the 306<sup>th</sup> from May through November 1943. He flew eleven combat missions with the various groups. After the War, he earned a BS in Chemical Engineering and later received a Masters from NYU in Chemistry. He worked for the Curtiss Wright Company and went on to earn another Masters in metallurgy from the Stevens Institute. He would move to Los Angeles and join Aerojet and later worked for TRW inspecting and accepting Lunar Excursion Module Engines for the Apollo 11 moon landing mission. Surviving is son, Damon.

### 306<sup>th</sup> Family:

**Sewell, Steven J, (Lt.Col. USMCR ret)**, son-in law of 368<sup>th</sup> pilot, Kenneth Wait, A-4 Skyhawk pilot and Viet Nam War veteran, passed away 25 May 2022 in New Braunfels, TX, survived by his wife Carol.





# 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association Annual Membership Registration Form 2023 Calendar Year

Please print all information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a 306<sup>th</sup> WWII veteran. 306<sup>th</sup> Unit/Duty/Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information (such as POW; year born): \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have an interest in a particular WWII 306<sup>th</sup> veteran, complete the following about him:**

I am not related to him. **OR:**  This 306<sup>th</sup> WWII Veteran is my (relationship): \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 306<sup>th</sup> Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Duty/Job Title or Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a:  World War II History Buff  Author/Writer  Researcher  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information:

**EFFECTIVE 2021: If you are NOT of the WWII generation AND you wish to receive copies of *Echoes* via US Mail, there is a \$20 per calendar year subscription fee to cover cost of printing and mailing. Membership registration remains free.**

You can obtain a FREE electronic version of the 306<sup>th</sup> *ECHOES*, via our website at: [www.306bg.us](http://www.306bg.us).

**DO NOT SEND CASH**

306<sup>th</sup> *ECHOES* Subscription: make check payable to: 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association. Memo: *Echoes* 2023.

**Mail your check (with or without this form) to:**

SALLY SMITH, 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA TREASURER PO BOX 17163; BOULDER, CO 80308

**I want to make a donation to the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association:**

*PayPal*<sup>TM</sup> donations can be made on-line at [www.306bg.us](http://www.306bg.us) using the yellow "Donate" button.

**Mail your completed Membership Registration form to:**

306<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
C/O MR. BRUCE CHASE, DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP  
2324 HATCH HILL RD; NEW ALBANY, PA 18833-8887

Each member will be placed on our membership list for the current calendar year only.

We ask that you renew your free membership each calendar year to confirm your continued interest in the 306<sup>th</sup> BGHA and that your contact eMail/US Mail information is current.

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**Ontario, California**  
**Site of the**  
**Eighth Air Force Historical Society**  
**and**  
**306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Association**  
**Reunion**



**October 18 – 22, 2023**

Reunion details can be found in this issue of *Echoes* and on the  
306<sup>th</sup> BGHA website ([www.306bg.us](http://www.306bg.us)).