

# Raeburn D. Drenner

June 12, 1919 to March 24, 2000

I'd like to tell you about a friend of mine who died this past Friday. His name is Raeburn D. Drenner. He was 80 years old and lived in Las Vegas the past 31 years.

Many of his friends and family called him "Rae" but to most of us, he was just known as "Drenner". I met Drenner when I began my career at the Review-Journal in 1973 as an Ad Salesman and worked side-by-side with him until he took an early retirement in 1982. By the time I started at the newspaper, career wise, Drenner had pretty much "done it all".

Born in Yale, Oklahoma, Drenner's career took him from stints as a newspaper advertising salesman in Parsons, Kansas to Radio Announcer positions on stations in Coffeyville, Kansas and Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Prior to joining the Review-Journal in 1968, he was the Vice President and General Manager of a Publishing Company in Pryor, Oklahoma.

In addition to his career, there were a number of other things Rae was very proud of. His service in the Air Force was one of those things. He was a Veteran of World War II where he flew as a bombardier in the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. He was a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Association.

But I think Rae was most proud of his family. He was married to his wife, Virginia, for 56 years. She was at his side through his illness. They have two grown children. Son Terry Drenner lives in Inola, Oklahoma with his wife Holly. Daughter Pam Nelson lives in Fallon, Nevada with her husband, Greg.

Drenner was proud of his grandsons and great-grandchild. He talked frequently about Eric Drenner who now lives in Claremore, Oklahoma and Shawn Nelson in Helena, Montana. He spoke often about Michael Nelson who lives in Reno, Nevada.

His delight was great-granddaughter Audry Drenner, who resides in Claremore, Oklahoma.

Drenner would be upset if I failed to mention his love for the game of golf. I hate to admit it, but in his "heyday," he was actually a pretty good golfer.

His "love for the game" is in part what kept our relationship so strong. Each year our newspaper publishes a golf section about the Las Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament. Up until last year,

Drenner came to work for us each and every year to help us sell advertising in that special edition. It was something Drenner loved to do.

I know too, Drenner would have wanted us to keep this simple.

We will do that. From all of your friends at the Review-Journal, we say goodbye, but you will not be forgotten.

We will miss you.

December 4, 1985

William M. Collins, Jr.  
2973 Heatherbrae Drive  
Poland, Ohio 44514

Dear Bill;

As yet I have not received the October Issue of the 306th ECHOES. I want to be sure my name is on the mailing list. I called Russell Strong about this and he said I would be sent a copy. However, as yet none has arrived. Could you follow through on this?

Also, Strong said you were the one to see about getting a patch on the squadrons.

I was a member of the 423rd Sqdn. "The Grim Reapers".

I would like the patch if you have them. Please let me know the cost and I'll forward a check for same. (1)  
Or, send one and I'll send you a check by return mail.

I attended the reunion in Colorado Springs after receiving your issue of the ECHOES the day before the reunion.

Had a great time and met some former cadets I went through school with at Santa Anna, California in 1942 and 43

Thanking you in advance, I Remain,

  
Raeburn D. Drenner

ADD :  
3216 Medicine Man Way  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
89109



December 4, 1985

Russell Strong  
2041 Hillside  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Dear Russell;

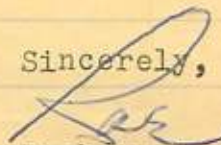
Thought perhaps I had better write a short note to follow up on our telephone conversation a few weeks ago regarding the October edition of 306th ECHOES.

You said you would send a copy, plus, the Directory. However, as yet I have not received them. As usual, they may have been lost in the mail as this has been happening more and more in this area.


Have just finished reading your book on the 306th and must say it's one of the best I have read. Congratulations for a job well done.

Enjoyed meeting you in Colorado Springs and had a great time. It was my first visit with the 306th since 1944. Met some fellows that I went through Cadets with in Santa Anna, California. What a time. Again, I want to thank you for past favors.

Sincerely,

  
Raeburn D. Drenner

3216 Medicine Man Way  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

IF THE MAIL HAPPENS TO CROSS  
AND I RECEIVE THE ABOVE I'LL LET  
YOU KNOW. IF NOT, PLEASE FORWARD.  


2/18/86

Russell A. Stroog  
Editor  
306th Echoes

Dear Russell;  
As yet I have not  
received the January  
Issue of 306th Echoes.  
Could you see that my  
name is on the mailing  
list.

If you remember, I  
did not receive the  
October '85 issue  
until it was brought  
to your attention.  
Thanks in advance  
for post favors. I'll  
be looking for the  
Jan. issue.

(over)

RAE—



Raeburn Drenner

~~3216~~

3216 Medicine Man Way  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
89109

The zip code has  
been wrong in past  
correspondence  
with the 306th.

89109

ADD: RAE BURN D. DRENNER  
3216 MEDICINE MAN  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89109

423RD

August 28, 1985

Mr. William M. Collins, Jr.

306th Bombardment Group Association

2973 Heatherbrae Drive

Poland, Ohio, 44514

Dear Bill:

After all these years I finally discovered that there was a 306th Assn., of the 8th AF. Reading a small item in the paper about the reunion in Kansas, I wrote and also bought the 8th Air Force Year book and found there was the Association and that you were the head of it, however the book gave no title.

Be that as it may, I am writing to receive all information, i.e., dues and etc. about the 306th.

I was a Bombardier with the 423rd Sqdn. The Pilot was Richard Nickelhoff and Navigator Richard P. Willaims, Co-Pilot Herbert B. Ewing. The Plane was the "Wolf Pack" however it was never painted on the plane when I was with the crew, having returned the the states with ulcers...along with Ewing who had a bad case of sinus and couldnt go above 10,000 feet.

It seems our squadron was called the Grim Reaper Squadron, however we had to change the name for some reason or other....I don't remember.

I would appreciate any information that you can send regards to the Group and Squadron and any dues that is required.

Sincerely  
Raeburn D. Drenner

*Raeburn D. Drenner*

(over)



I was with the 306th from the last of September 1943 through March 1944. I think this is correct without looking up the records. Anyway, thanks in advance for any information regarding the 306th.



Rae