



ROBERT "BOB" NORMAN HOUSER Des Moines

Robert "Bob" Norman Houser, 87, passed away on March 2, of natural causes at the Trinity Center of Luther Park in Des Moines. Visitation will be held Monday, March 5, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Olivet Baptist Church in Des Moines. A memorial service is planned for Tuesday, March 6, at 11 a.m. at Union Park Baptist Church in Des Moines.

Bob was born September 21, 1919, in Bloomfield, Iowa to Venna and Charles Bart Houser. He graduated in 1936 from East High School in Des Moines, soon after joining The Bankers Life Company. Bob married his beloved wife Doris (Miller) in 1943. Bob received his B.A. degree in mathematics from the University of Iowa, graduating summa cum laude in 1947.

Bob served his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II as a First Lieutenant and was recalled for ten months during the Korean Conflict. As a navigator with the Eighth Air Force in Europe, he flew 35 missions, received the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He spent his entire professional career at The Banker's Life Company, today known as the Principal Financial Group. Starting in the mailroom, he worked his way to president (1973-1975), president and CEO (1975-1982), chairman and CEO (1982-1984) and chairman (1984-1989). During Bob's tenure, the company grew from 300 to 3,300 employees. His leadership impacted the company, the insurance industry, and the city of Des Moines in ways that are still felt today.

After Bob's retirement from The Principal in 1984, he continued to serve the community by becoming president of Des Moines Development Corporation. In this role, his only objective was to stimulate the city's development. His efforts fueled a billion dollar construction boom that included the development of the downtown skywalk system, Polk County Convention Center, the Kaleidoscope, Capitol Square, The Civic Center of Greater Des Moines and Nollen Plaza, the Iowa State Historical Building and the construction of several Principal Financial Group buildings, including 801 Grand. He was enthusiastically involved in numerous industry and community organizations throughout his life, including serving on the boards of Bethel College & Seminary, Mercy Hospital Medical Center, Drake University, Iowa College Foundation, United Way of Central Iowa, Civic Center of Greater Des Moines, Iowa Venture Capital Fund, Community Focus, Inc., Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitors Bureau, Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Federation, Golden Circle Development Corporation, The United Way Foundation, the Iowa affiliate of the American Heart Association, Des Moines Convention Center, Salisbury House Foundation, the Iowa Historical Museum Foundation and the Des Moines Business & Education Roundtable. An avid racing fan, he served as president for The Greater Des Moines Ruan Grand Prix, which was developed and launched through his leadership.

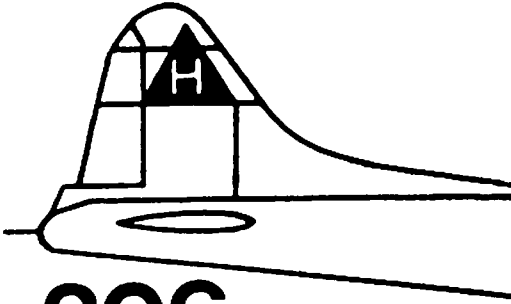
Bob was a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and past president of the Actuaries Club of Des Moines. He served on various actuarial and industry boards and committees, including the American Council of Life Insurance and the Health Insurance Association of America. He served as chairman of two state legislative tax study committees. In retirement he served as national treasurer for the 306th Bomb Group Association and as vice-chair guided the efforts to build the World War Two Memorial on the grounds of the state capitol.

In tribute for his work in the insurance industry and the city of Des Moines, Bob received numerous awards and honors. He was twice awarded keys to the city for his work on its behalf, once in 1984 and again in honor of his 80th birthday in 1999. He was awarded both the Distinguished Alumni Award and Iowa Business Leadership Award from his alma mater the University of Iowa. He held an honorary Doctor of Laws from Drake University and the Presidential Distinguished Medal of Honor from Bethel University. In addition, he was named to the Greater Des Moines Committee's Iowa Business Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Iowa Insurance Hall of Fame. He also received the Alexis de Tocqueville Award from the United Way of Central Iowa, which recognizes "dedication and contributions which advance our knowledge and practice of the principles of individual liberty as the foundation of free, prosperous and humane societies."

Throughout his successful career, Bob's family and faith were his top priorities. He was an active member of Union Park Baptist church and served over the years in a number of leadership roles on the local, state, and national level of the Baptist General Conference. He was instrumental in founding and building Pine Lake Christian Camp in Eldora.

Bob never left his home state, becoming a fixture in the Des Moines and Beaverville communities for more than thirty years. His dedication to the community, family and friends has left a legacy that won't be soon forgotten. He lived by example, encouraging others to grow and to risk, to make changes, to make the world better, and more importantly to enjoy life and have fun along the way.

Bob is survived by his wife, Doris; two children Ted (Jan) Houser and Judy Gray (Jules); daughter-in-law, Kathy Houser; six grandchildren; and two brothers, Charles Houser of Livermore,



367th, 368th, 369th, 423rd Squadrons, and service organizations
Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, England – September 1942-April 1945

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

President

William F. Cavaness
702 Cravens Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78223

Vice President

C. Dale Briscoe
7829 Timber Top Drive
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78006

Secretary

Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
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Treasurer

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2412 48th Street
Des Moines, IA 50310

Directors

M/Gen James S. Cheney
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Joseph R. Hathaway
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Victor L. Rose
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Donald L. Snook
45 N. Turkey Hill Road
Westport, CT 06880

Past President

Forrest J. Stewart
21 Doe Run Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77380

1994 Reunion Chairman

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2412 48th Street
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British Representative

Ralph Franklin
Mill Hill
Keysoe, Beds MK44 2HP
England

6/6/94

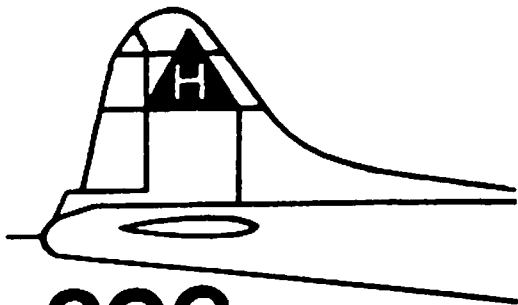
Dear Russ:

I've been following the D-Day reporting with a great deal of interest. We flew our first mission on D+5 and our pilot a few days earlier. Have been particularly interested in the 70+ year old paratroopers who have re-enacted their jump. Maybe we can come up with some suitable counterpart for our meeting in Des Moines. Unless I hear otherwise, I'll continue to send any slips which suggest changes of address or pertinent comments on "Echoes" articles, etc. The finances seem to be going smoothly. It would help me to get back any blank checks you still have. My records show unused checks #1005, 1006, 1007, although one of these would have been used for the 4/1 expense check of \$450. I'd like to get the other two back so I don't have to work around them in sequence. Let us know the latest date to FAX the attendees list to you. We've been

(over)

promised cooperation from the hotel. They've finished tearing down that old eyesore motel between the Crystal Inn and our overflow hotel. If you need any more information for a write-up on our banquet speaker, please let me know. His secretary has been very cooperative in providing material. Things seem to be going well on reunion plans, although I don't know what our registration total is at this point.

Bob House



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9/30/94

Russ

We're making headway on getting our reunion bills paid and our financial status squared away. We do know that there will be a substantial remainder to turn over, although not up to last year's \$10,000. Our records show 60 squadron diaries sold at \$17 each = \$1,020. Also 14 copies of "First Over Germany" at \$35 each = \$490. We also sold PX merchandise of \$3,240.50. If you have any different count on the publication sales, please let me know. I'm enclosing a check for \$490 covering the proceeds from sale of your book. We're feeling good about the reunion but glad someone else has it next year.

Bob Houser

Des Moines Development Corporation

ROBERT N. HOUSER
President

Work

**Suite 1029, Two Ruan Center
601 Locust, Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515 / 245-3898**

An affiliate of the Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Federation

FAX 515/245-5462

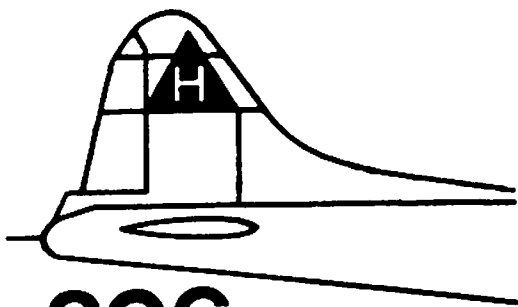
thePrincipal

*Financial
Group*

Home

Robert M. Hauser
Chairman Emeritus

2412 - 48th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
(515) 279-4498



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1994 Reunion
15-17 September
Des Moines, IA

8/19/94

Dear Russ:

I've got several items on my list, as follows =

1. Will all officers arrive on Tuesday? If so, they haven't notified the hotel. I've made sure that the complimentary rooms for officers are available for Tuesday arrival.

2. I'm willing to host a dinner meeting for officers and/or board members at the Embassy Club atop Des Moines's tallest building if you want. This could be Tues, Wed or Fri night.

3. Would it be appropriate to christen our new 1/5th scale "Rose of York" at the Aviation Expo affair? I think it would make a good news item for the local TV & press. If so, who and how? Perhaps have Cavaness do it. We can furnish the champagne and enough glasses for a universal toast. Would there be any negatives? Can we get any of the original crew or even later crew members? Could you tell the history of this airplane?

4. Can I order the following mission reports: 6/21/44 (Berlin), 7/20/44 (Rothens Marburg), 8/6/44 (Oderberg), 8/16/44 (Bohlen), and 9/11/44 (Eisenach)? Some of these are on your missing list, or at least were at one time. I'm writing the 306th

wives included

a check for \$25 and will deposit it. Doesn't seem to make much sense to send it on a two-way trip.

That's it. If you get back soon, I can discuss some of these items by phone.

Bob Houser



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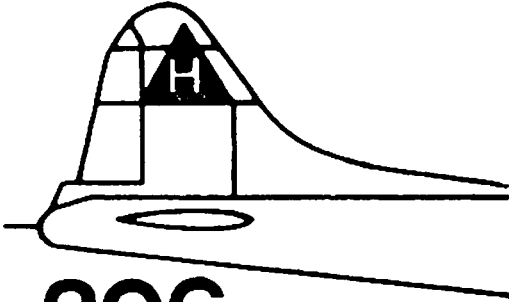
9/21

Rules

Things are getting back to normal here. I trust you had a safe trip home. We're paying bills but don't yet know how we came out financially. The PX (including your book and diaries) almost sold out with total intake of \$4,750.50. I'm sending your October 1 checks and will plan to do this on a monthly basis rather than quarterly so as to keep the books a little more current. Also enclosed are five blank checks. Any which aren't ^{used} in October should be returned for reissue. We felt pretty good about the reunion despite a few glitches. It's still good to talk about it in the past tense.

(over) Bob Houser

P.S. Charles Clark of Lenoir, NC is the one who requested a copy of the big picture of the B17 with number H 2102557 Y on the tail. Can you help him out? He says it was his airplane and he has no copy of any kind. Obviously he wants a smaller copy, not the large one.



367th, 368th, 369th, 423rd Squadrons, and service organizations
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306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

Secretary/Historian

Russell A. Strong
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22 November 1994

Author
First Over Germany

Command and Staff
Officers, 8th Air
Force, 1942-45

Editor
306th Echoes (quarterly)
306th Directory (biennial)
306th Squadron Diaries
367, 368, 369, 423

Dear Dale:

I am wondering if it might not be profitable to the Association to carry a proper notice in Echoes once or twice each year concerning the opportunity for people to remember the 306th Bomb Group Association in their wills.

Gifts so made might be to the general budget or to the special project fund, which would enable us to carry on some other activities which we are not now doing.

Perhaps you might ask John Hickey to prepare some kind of a legal statement which people could give to their attorneys for inclusion in a will or as a codicil to be added to an existing will.

I feel sure that if Keith Jackson had had such a memorandum, he might have left us something to continue some practices which he supported.

Its worth thinking about.

Russ

11/30

I'm a strong supporter of anything we can do to encourage "deferred giving". It surely works for colleges. I think the emotional appeal is there if ~~we~~ we can capitalize on it. My experience is that you not only have to present the idea but also continue promoting it over a long period of time. My suggestion would be to have some type of presentation at an annual reunion.

ALWAYS FIRST

FIRST OVER GERMANY

Bob Lousser

Leader Houser retiring second time

DM Register, 12/28/94

After 10 years as head of Des Moines Development Corp., he is leaving the future of the downtown area to someone else.

By JIM POLLOCK
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Robert N. Houser arrived for work in downtown Des Moines at the age of 16. Fifty-nine years and one brand-new downtown later, it's time to go home.

Houser is retiring as president of the Des Moines Development Corp., which has helped tear down and rearrange the heart of the city as if it were a set of Legos under a Christmas tree.

He quit a presidency once before, when he retired in 1984 as the boss at The Bankers Life insurance company — now Principal Financial. That's the company that gave him his first job as a teen-ager, when his paycheck went to support his mother and siblings on the farm east of town.

"Still Had Energy"

But the first retirement didn't offer much rest because Houser just moved to a new office and kept heading downtown every morning from Beaverdale. "I still had the

energy. I like to be involved and know what's going on," Houser said. So he spent 10 years as the Des Moines Development president.

"There's really no reason to retire now," said Houser, 75. "But I want to leave while they still want me to stay."

It was the death of his father that turned Houser into a 16-year-old breadwinner. Then World War II came along with some more responsibility for him: 27 missions over France and Germany as the navigator in a B-17 bomber.

The 306th Bomber Group Association still keeps in touch and publishes a newsletter and holds reunions. Not surprisingly, Houser is involved. He's the national treasurer.

Earned Degree

After the war, Houser earned his degree at the University of Iowa and commenced rising through the ranks at Bankers Life.

The Des Moines Development Corp. came to life in 1978 and the business leaders involved in it asked Houser to be the president. "They picked me because Bankers Life was neutral on most business issues," Houser said.

"They didn't have to talk very hard to get me to accept. I've lived

HOUSER Please turn to Page 4M



DAVID AHNTOLZ/THE REGISTER

Robert Houser, the retiring president of Des Moines Development Corp., stands in Capital Square in downtown Des Moines. It was the first project of the non-profit development group, and the starting point of other projects, including the skywalk system.

*I decided to quit before
they fired me. BH*

Houser is retiring a second time

HOUSER

Continued from Page 1M

here since I was 2 years old. It's my city and I was interested in it."

The non-profit organization has been involved in many projects since then: the Marriott Hotel, Capital Square, Kaleidoscope at the Hub, the Convention Center, the skywalks, Elsie Mason Manor and Ligutti Towers, for example.

"Involved in Everything"

"Bob was involved to some degree in everything that went on," said his long-time friend and fellow businessman, John Ruan. "He has been a valuable asset to the business community and the city of Des Moines."

Richard "Red" Brannan, a former Polk County supervisor and now a consultant to Des Moines Development, ranks Houser among the top five influential people in the city over the past decade and a half.

"He's one of the most interesting individuals I've ever known," Brannan said. "His background is so varied and he has such great knowledge, on both a personal level and a business level."

Houser takes a good deal of pride in the changes he sees all around him. "Des Moines is a lot different than it was 16 years ago and I feel I had a pretty key role," he said.

"You bring some high school buddies back after 50 years and their eyes bug out when they see what we have here." Not surprisingly, he's involved in that sort of thing. He's the chairman of the East High Alumni Foundation.

Of course, not every Des Moines Development connection has worked out. Some have gone wrong in a very public way.

"I'm disappointed that the Grand Prix is not a financial success, but I don't feel bad about it," Houser said. "We've had six good years of racing."

As for Prairie Meadows race track, well, "If you don't take chances, you don't do anything."

Will Do Fine

Downtown Des Moines should do fine without him, Houser figures. "For a while, I was worried about it failing. That used to scare me. It isn't going to happen now, but it still has

to be worked at."

He would like to see the east side of downtown developed, between the river and the State Capitol. He would like to see Des Moines "get its financial house in order."

Despite his focus on the city's downtown, "I hope Ankeny, Altoona, Waukee, Norwalk and the rest of the towns around Des Moines expand; I hope we have a ring of prosperous communities all around us."

His biggest dream is "better cooperation between the city and the suburbs. Until we can work together, we're going to be frustrated."

But that's somebody else's problem now. Bob Houser is punching out.

He has a whole other life to go home to. He and his wife, Doris, just marked 51 years of marriage. Their three children and six grandchildren live in Des Moines and Johnston. Houser still sings in the choir at Union Park Baptist Church.

He has no idea what he'll do on his first day without an office, but he does have a firm grip on this idea: "I'd like to think my life counts for something."

THE REGISTER'S EDITORIALS

Bob Houser and the D.M. spirit

**His quiet service to his hometown
leaves a visible legacy.**

To look at the bold new skyline of downtown Des Moines, it's hard to believe that one of the most influential figures in reshaping the business district is a modest, low-key man whose idea of a good time is going out for burgers with his grandkids. But, for the past 10 years, Robert N. Houser has played a critical role in the downtown renewal as president of the Des Moines Development Corp., a non-profit group bankrolled by Des Moines' most important businesses dedicated to downtown redevelopment.

The organization has been the catalyst for most every major downtown redevelopment effort for the past 15 years. One reason: Bob Houser's avuncular, aw-shucks manner, his quiet competence and invisible ego (which belie a razor-sharp mind and iron will) allowed him to move quietly and effectively among powerful business executives, balky city officials and skeptical civic groups.

If Houser approached his job with missionary zeal, it may be because he is an unashamed booster of Des Moines: Although his business career took him to the top of his field, he preserved his roots in the city, and he dedicated a second career to helping rebuild it. Now, after 10 years dedicated to that effort, he's retiring — again.

Houser came to the Des Moines Develop-

ment Corp. with impressive credentials: He had just retired after a distinguished career at The Bankers Life (now Principal Financial Group), rising from an entry-level job and retiring as chairman in 1984, a period in which it grew to be one of the nation's biggest mutual-life companies.

Instead of heading south upon retirement, Houser moved just a few blocks away to a new downtown office as the first president of the Des Moines Development Corp. Up to that point it had been a loosely organized group of local businesses interested in downtown redevelopment; Houser transformed it into a powerful force, providing the vision, seed money, business acumen and dogged determination necessary to see major projects through from beginning to end.

During Houser's tenure the process has been remarkably free of the acrimony that marked the early days of downtown redevelopment. Much of the credit for that goes to Bob Houser's sure hand. His presence will be missed, but a gleaming new downtown stands as a permanent record of his hard work. Perhaps an even better legacy, though, is the spirit of trust and cooperation that has marked Houser's efforts in community-building. That will serve the city well for decades to come.

*Since our hometown paper
doesn't hand out buds
very often, this is sort of
like reading your obituary.*

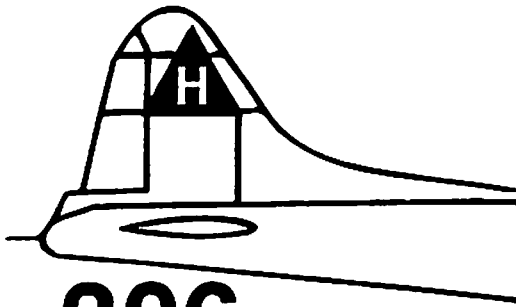
4/25/04

Dear Russ:

I've been putting off writing for some time. I've started to have some old age problems with my legs giving out. I'm now using a cane because of walking difficulties. I've come to the conclusion that it's about time to pass on the treasurer's job to someone else. Seems like I've had it a long time. I have no suggestions to offer. Perhaps Dale Biscoe would consider giving it another try. I'll do my best to make this year's reunion but it may be my last.

Sincerely,

Bob Houser



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See the Thurleigh Airfield Museum

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British Representative
Ralph Franklin
Mill Hill
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England

24 October 2004

Mr. Robert N. Houser
2412 48th St
Des Moines, IA 50310

Dear Bob:

I am writing you for the officers, directors and membership of our Association to thank you profusely for the more than 10 years of service as treasurer of the 306th.

Those presently serving extend their special thanks for your self-service in handling the funds so well for us, and reporting each month so that we always knew that the funds were available to continue the efforts to hold a great organization together.

We wish you and Doris many more years of togetherness, and that you continue the enjoyment of your family. Our only regret is that in our closing years more and more of us will have to leave the fellowship of the reunions. I think you have enjoyed them as much as I have. Its a great group of men to serve.

We would hope that you might join us for one more reunion. While we will be in San Antonio in 2005, Don and Janice Ross are making plans with there family to host 2006 in Omaha one more time.

My mind also runs back to the great reunion you chaired for us in Des Moines in 1994, especially the model planes and the great pork chop dinner.

We all wish you well,



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Des Moines

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After Bob's retirement from The Principal in 1984, he continued to serve the community by becoming president of Des Moines Development Corporation. In this role, his only objective was to stimulate the city's development. His efforts fueled a billion dollar construction boom that included the development of the downtown skywalk system, Polk County Convention Center, the Kaleidoscope, Capitol Square, The Civic Center of Greater Des Moines and Nollen Plaza, the Iowa State Historical Building and the construction of several Principal Financial Group buildings, including 801 Grand. He was enthusiastically involved in numerous industry and community organizations throughout his life, including serving on the boards of Bethel College & Seminary, Mercy Hospital Medical Center, Drake University, Iowa College Foundation, United Way of Central Iowa, Civic Center of Greater Des Moines, Iowa Venture Capital Fund, Community Focus, Inc., Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitors Bureau, Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Federation, Golden Circle Development Corporation, The United Way Foundation, the Iowa affiliate of the American Heart Association, Des Moines Convention Center, Salisbury House Foundation, the Iowa Historical Museum Foundation and the Des Moines Business & Education Roundtable. An avid racing fan, he served as president for The Greater Des Moines Ruan Grand Prix, which was developed and launched through his leadership.

Bob was a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and past president of the Actuaries Club of Des Moines. He served on various actuarial and industry boards and committees, including the American Council of Life Insurance and the Health Insurance Association of America. He served as chairman of two state legislative tax study committees. In retirement he served as national treasurer for the 306th Bomb Group Association and as vice-chair guided the efforts to build the World War Two Memorial on the grounds of the state capitol.

In tribute for his work in the insurance industry and the city of Des Moines, Bob received numerous awards and honors. He was twice awarded keys to the city for his work on its behalf, once in 1984 and again in honor of his 80th birthday in 1999. He was awarded both the Distinguished Alumni Award and Iowa Business Leadership Award from his alma mater the University of Iowa. He held an honorary Doctor of Laws from Drake University and the Presidential Distinguished Medal of Honor from Bethel University. In addition, he was named to the Greater Des Moines Committee's Iowa Business Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Iowa Insurance Hall of Fame. He also received the Alexis-de-Tocqueville Award from the United Way of Central Iowa, which recognizes "dedication and contributions which advance our knowledge and practice of the principles of individual liberty as the foundation of free, prosperous and humane societies."

Throughout his successful career, Bob's family and faith were his top priorities. He was an active member of Union Park Baptist church and served over the years in a number of leadership roles on the local, state, and national level of the Baptist General Conference. He was instrumental in founding and building Pine Lake Christian Camp in Eldora.

Bob never left his home state, becoming a fixture in the Des Moines and Beaverdale communities for more than thirty years. His dedication to the community, family and friends has left a legacy that won't be soon forgotten. He lived by example, encouraging others to grow and to risk, to make changes, to make the world better, and, more importantly to enjoy life and have fun along the way.

Bob is survived by his wife, Doris; two children Ted (Jan) Houser and Judy Gray (Jules); daughter-in-law, Kathy Houser; six grandchildren; and two brothers, Charles Houser of Livermore, California and Bill Houser of Waverly, Iowa. Bob was preceded in death by his son, Jim Houser, who passed away in July 2005. Bob is also preceded in death by one sister and one brother.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Pine Lake Christian Camp Game Cabin fund or the East High Alumni Association.

A Note to express appreciation for my first
copy of Echoes (Vol 1, No 1). This is my first contact
since 1945, and most welcome, indeed!

Sincerely, Robert Hansen

369th / 367th / April 17, 1943 POW

BOB HOUSER

7/21

Dear Mr. Strong:

I am a little surprised that in the 306th Echoes you have made no reference to the annual reunion of the 8th Air Force Historical Society which will be held here in Des Moines this October 12-16. I will be unable to attend the 306th reunion in Las Vegas but am wondering if there will be any attempt to get a 306th group together here at the 8th Air Force meeting. Please let me know.

ROBERT N. HOUSER
2412 48th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Sincerely,
R. N. Houser

CONFUCIUS
SAY: A firm's greatest asset is its people.

Check Your Mailing Label

Please check the mailing label on the front of this issue of Echoes. We are now managing our own mailing list on the Association's computer. As all information has been newly-entered, there may be some errors (spelling, capitalization, etc.) of which we should be aware.

Because of greater flexibility in how we handle data, we can do a better job of maintaining your address properly.

We have also added to our coding of "Friends" by including the following: W-widow, D-daughter, S-son, GS-grandson; we are now including another 8th AF unit if the person served there; CJ is for persons who served with the Casey Jones Project after the close of combat; BW identifies those who have served or are serving with the 306th Strategic Wing. Other refinements will be made in this listing as needed.

We can now handle the 9-digit Zip code as well, and request your assistance in this. If you don't remember yours (I don't!), check your phone bill.

The computer program we are using now (FastPak Mail) also permits the use of telephone numbers.

If you would like to assist us, please use the form below:

Updating the 306th

Name ROBERT N. HOUSER

Street address 2412 48th St.

City, state DES MOINES, IA Zip 50310-2516

Telephone 515/279-4498

306th Organization: (If you prefer an organization other than that shown on the label, please indicate 368th)

Military Rank: That for regular retired officers is shown as indicated in the 1972 USAF Register. If yours is incorrect or unlisted, please indicate that which is correct:

Rank _____ Regular _____ Reserve _____

Title: Professional titles are indicated if known. If you would prefer to have one used, please indicate it _____

If you would prefer to have no title used, check here _____

Do you know the present or former location of any 306th people whom you do not find in the current directory? If so, please list them below with last known location. This may be a complete present address, a WWII address, or only a city and a state. We will endeavor to locate such persons as time permits.

FRANCIS E. FERGUSON, the retired chairman of Northwestern Mutual Life, is a former 306th pilot (and POW) in the 368th. I contacted him through the company in Milwaukee and gave him your name and address. He should be contacting you.

Searching: If you care to assist in searching out information on people in your area, the secretary will be happy to send you his State Lost List. Please check _____

Send this form to:

Secretary
306th BG Assoc.
5323 Cheval Pl.
Charlotte, NC 28205

BOB HOUSER

11/7/88

Russell A. Strong

In the October 1988 issue of 306th Echoes you list tour dates for Navigators. My tour with the 368th started 5/28/44 as listed and ended 9/17/44 per enclosed special orders. I spent one year with the ATC at Prestwick, Scotland as a Navigation & Briefing Officer with a final release on 9/26/45. Was in Paris with a traveling ATC crew when the European war ended.

Sincerely

Bob Houser

ROBERT N. HOUSER
2412 48th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

**CONFUCIUS
SAY:** Person who get along with
people get ahead of others.

June 1, 1989

Dear Mr. Strong:

Can you or someone else tell me when the footage shown in the recently produced 306th Thurligh video was shot? A main feature of the video is a B-17 on the ground completely burning up. If the footage was shot the summer of 1944, then the burning plane has to be the one our crew was test-hopping the latter part of July, 1944 when it caught on fire while in a landing pattern. We had a skeleton crew with 1 Henry Dwyer as pilot. He slammed the plane to the ground and we all got out and ran. It burned up completely except for the rear section just as in the video. I was navigator on the flight riding in the nose. Joe Marlovitz, our co-pilot, was rather badly burned on the neck and thus was grounded for some period of time. His recollection of the incident is more complete than mine, and he can be reached at Box 148, Sunol, CA 94586 (phone 415/862-2006). I will await your reply with interest. It sure hit me to see this event so vividly displayed on video some 45 years after the fact.

ROBERT N. HOUSER
2412 48th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Bob Houser
58

Sincerely,

Bob Houser

June 1, 1985

Mr. Wm. M. Collins, Jr.
2973 Heatherbrae Drive
Poland, Ohio 44514

Dear Mr. Collins:

I've appreciated receiving the 306th Echoes since first making contact last year. Enclosed is a check for \$50 to help in the printing and distribution costs. I would appreciate being listed in the "Newly-Found" section since I have lost all contact with my former crew members. I served in the 368th Bomb Squadron from May through September, 1944 as a navigator. My current address is listed below. Thanks.

R. N. Houser

ROBERT N. HOUSER
2412 48th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

BOB HOUSER

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