

After 2 1/2 Years

306th BGHA Hosts Memorable Reunion



The legacy of the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association continues to survive despite 2 1/2-years in which pandemic restrictions forced its members to rely on such socializing substitutes as Zoom and eMail. Although the group was smaller than in previous years, the fifty-five attendees at the 2022 Tucson Reunion fell into the cadence of sharing stories, rekindling friendships, and having another incomparable experience.

This year four World War II veterans shared their stories with us: Fred Engstrom and Walter Olmsted Jr. of the 306th BGHA and Richard Bushong and Walter Ram of the 390th, both of whom have authored their stories. Strength and grace best describe these gentlemen. Using liberal portions of humor and encouragement, they recounted for us tales of their war experiences and their life's journey.

Once again, the Hospitality Room was the site for those who brought World War II memorabilia to exhibit. Artifacts that were carefully displayed frequently invoked significant interest and discussion from those viewing especially unique items.

(Continued on page 6)

Reunion Debuts New 306th BGHA Banner



Clayton Snyder, Vice President, and Steve Snyder, Director-at-Large, proudly reveal the new 306th banner to be displayed at reunions and other events where the 306th BGHA is represented.

EDITION HIGHLIGHTS	
306 th BGHA Hosts Memorable Reunion.....	1
Reunion Debuts New Banner.....	1
From the President	2
From the Vice President	3
From the Editor	3
Your Dollars Sustain the 306 th BGHA Mission.....	5
Folded Wings Candle Lighting Ceremony	8
Tucson Reunion Photo Album	9
AmazonSmile	20
Spoon Carried Home by POW	20
306 th Airman Accounted For.....	21
Given in Memory Of.....	21
Thurleigh Museum Notes – Newsletters from England.....	18
Cambridge Cemetery Memorial	25
In Memoriam.....	26
Membership Registration Form.....	27

Leadership
306th Bomb Group Historical Association
2022 – 2023 Officers

PRESIDENT SUE SHARKEY
sue.sharkey@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT CLAYTON SNYDER
claysny@gmail.com

(INTERIM) SECRETARY KEVIN CONANT
kevinconant306@icloud.com

TREASURER SALLY HANLEY
Year-end financial information available upon request.
Make checks payable to
“306th Bomb Group Historical Association”
PO Box 2547, Lyons, CO 80540
Mountain Time phone 720-310-0694
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

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

2023 REUNION CHAIRMAN – STEVE SNYDER
Pacific Time cell 562-355-0461
PALMSNY@GMAIL.COM

PAST PRESIDENT – KEVIN CONANT
palmsny@gmail.com

Webmaster

CLIFFORD DEETS
Use the “click here” feedback line at the bottom
of the www.306bg.us home page

306th Museum Thurleigh

JOHN WATSON-READ
UK Representative
spikeread@hotmail.com

The 306th 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
306th BGHA 2022-2024
President Sue Sharkey

As I write this column, I'm sitting in a hotel in Italy. This morning I was reminded again of the great sacrifice of so many Americans by the American Cemetery outside of Florence. These soldiers with the white markers fought on foreign soil in defense of freedom. It is hard to imagine what the world would be like today if they had not prevailed. As I was graciously told by an Italian waiter, Italy would be Germany today if not for the American soldier. The sacrifice was not made in vain.

And so it is that the 306th BGHA exists today to fondly, proudly, and humbly honor our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and those we will never know. We as an historical association will never forget and will ensure their history, our country's history, and the world's history is never forgotten.

We were fortunate to come together in Tucson for a long-overdue reunion. It's been 2 ½ years since we last came together. The 390th Memorial Museum docents were wonderful hosts as we visited their museum in Tucson, which I highly recommend, along with the Pima Air & Space Museum. We were exceptionally fortunate to have Walter Ram from the 390th join us for dinner and speak of his experience during the war. Additionally, from our own 306th, we were blessed by the conversation between Fred Engstrom and Walter Olmsted.

I want to thank Deb Conant and her committee for an exceptional reunion in Tucson. Deb's organizational skills had everything running smoothly, and the programs were outstanding.

Congratulations to Clifford Deets and Nancy Huebotter, who were presented the Shuler Award, and to Steve Snyder, who received the Houlihan Award.

I'm tremendously appreciative of our 306th BGHA leadership team. We have a dedicated group of individuals committed to serving our association with distinction. I especially want to thank Clayton Snyder as he served in a dual role as both Vice

President and Interim Secretary. In addition, Kevin Conant has graciously agreed to serve as the Interim Secretary as we are working to ensure a permanent Secretary.

This summer, we will be visiting Thurleigh to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the 306th to England, “The First Over Germany.” We have a fascinating trip planned, with Steve Snyder organizing our time there. The visit to Thurleigh will be August 11th-15th.

I’m grateful to have had the chance to see so many of you in person in Tucson and look forward to seeing you again in the future. I appreciate your interest and dedication to this organization.

May God bless our nation with continuing freedom.

Your 306th BGHA President,
Sue Sharkey



**A Message from
306th BGHA 2022-
2024 Vice President
Clayton Snyder**

It’s hard to believe the 2022 Tucson Reunion has come and gone! It was a pleasure to see familiar

faces that I haven’t seen since 2018, and to see many new faces as well. To each member who could not attend, due to a wide array of understandable circumstances, know that you were missed.

We look forward to keeping you informed of future events.

Since being appointed as the Vice President of the 306th BGHA, I’ve witnessed the efforts of the leadership team that make this association run, and I am humbled. President Sue Sharkey cares deeply about the health and mission of this association. Fellow “3rd Gen’er” Treasurer Sally Hanley does incredible work and keeps all our heads straight. After I also accepted the Interim Secretary position, Barb Neal has been patient and thorough in sharing her process and insights. Kevin Conant, Mike Prentice, Bruce Chase, Nancy Huebotter, Cliff Deets, Sue Fox Moyer, and my father, Steve Snyder, have all played invaluable roles in this most recent transition in leadership. Not to mention

helping coordinate our first in-person reunion since the pandemic shutdown, this first year has been both challenging and enlightening.

While I stand firm as your Vice President, my brief term as Interim Secretary has come to a close. During the Board of Directors meeting, Kevin Conant graciously accepted the role of Interim Secretary as we continue to pin the right and willing member to take the official Secretary position, for which we have a handful of worthy candidates.

Lastly, as a voice for the future of the 306th BGHA, we are mindful that our mission to research and educate the public concerning the history of the 306th Bombardment Group during World War II dramatically depends on the inclusion of our other third generation descendants. While we continue to solidify our leadership team, revise and clarify our bylaws, and create improved systems of communication and workflow, developing programs to ensure third generation participation will be a high priority.

Thank you all for your continued involvement. It is our duty to remember.

Clayton Snyder

Vice President

From the Editor



**A Grateful Award
Winner**

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

To say I was overwhelmed as a recipient of the Thurman Shuller award for my work with

the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association, and more particularly for my work as editor of the *Echoes* news magazine, is a significant understatement. As I commence developing what is my 17th issue, I reflect on the “interview” I had with Dr. Vernon Williams when he asked me to take on this lofty role. As someone given the responsibility of ensuring readers receive a publication that meets their expectations in terms of content, appearance, and timely delivery, I strive to ensure it also carries

on the mission of the organization to educate the public concerning the history of the 306th Bombardment Group and to provide for continued education and camaraderie within the membership.

For me, my role as *Echoes* Editor is a labor of love. It is a way I can honor my father, a man of whom I am incredibly proud, not only for what he did in the service of his country, but for what he continued to do for his family and his country throughout his life.

When the war broke out, he was too young to enlist. Instead, he went to work for Douglas Aircraft Company in Santa Monica, California, where he worked on constructing A20 attack bombers for the US Army Air Corps and DB7 bombers for the British RAF.

After obtaining his mother's permission to pursue joining the military, Dad elected to join the Army Air Corps. He was sure he would be a cadet and a "hot shot" pilot. Although that did not work out as planned, Dad persisted in his desire to serve and eventually enlisted. Unfortunately, three months after arriving in Thurleigh, the *Hard to Get* crew was shot down, and Dad became a POW for the duration of the war.

When I first became acquainted with the 306th BGHA, this was about all I knew of my father's military experience. Like most veterans, he had little to say about his involvement with the war effort, simply declaring, "We had a job to do, and we did it."

I hope that any skills and talents I have and use in the publications of *Echoes* exemplify the admiration, respect, appreciation, and devotion I have for those who so unselfishly served their country.

In addition, I want to credit my parents for the values and beliefs they instilled in me as someone who does her utmost to put in a hard day's work and maintain a strong work ethic.

At the same time, my parents ensured I learned the lessons of being grateful for what I have been given. With that in mind, a sincere "thank you" to the readers of *Echoes* for your continued support, and to the Awards Committee for bestowing the prestigious Thurman Shuller Award upon me. How I wish my parents could have been in attendance as the award was presented. . . for in part, it belongs to them as well.

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 imbed 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.

If copyrighted materials are included, ensure permission for use has been obtained. Be sure to pass that information along when submitting the article.

Articles relative to World War II, the 306th 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.

Echoes Article Due Date for Summer/Fall Issue 26 September 2022



Donation Update:

Your Dollars Sustain the 306th BGHA Mission

Because the 306th 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 or mailed to the Treasurer at the address below. Many thanks to those of you who donated in 2021. As of 12 June 2022, the association received a total of \$5,357.79 from 62 supporters.

Memorial Donations

Please consider this significant way of honoring the memory of a veteran or other person who has been part of the 306th family by noting it on the memo line of your check or as a notation when using PayPal.

All donations are extremely important to the continuing education mission of the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association and are greatly appreciated!

**DONATION FOR THE
306TH BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

Make checks payable to:
306th Bomb Group Historical Association
Send to:
Sally Hanley, 306th BGHA Treasurer
PO Box 2547
Lyons, CO 80540

Name

By initialing here (_____), I confirm this current contact information should be used for my FREE Membership registration/renewal for 2022, indicating my continuing interest in the 306th BGHA.

Address

eMail:

Telephone Number(s): _____

Date

This donation is being made in memory of:

Name: _____ **Relationship to 306th** _____

2022 Tucson Reunion (cont.)

Next on the agenda was a visit to the 390th Bomb Group Museum located within the Pima Air and Space Museum complex.



Col. Richard Bushong spoke in the museum mezzanine, overlooking the Pima Air and Space grounds and the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base airfield. Richard B. Bushong, a World War II B-17 pilot, and retired USAF Colonel, captivated his audience with many anecdotes from his book *My Wars*,

which is rich with detail and humor. Col. Bushong's career commenced in World War II B-17s, during which he completed 28 missions flying strategic missions from the 390th Headquarters in Framlingham, Suffolk. The Viet Nam era F-4 Phantom fighter was the culmination of his military career. In the course of his career, Bushong is credited with flying 43 different types of aircraft, including cargo and fighter planes, bombers, and helicopters, experiencing speeds from 0 (hovering in a helicopter) to Mach 2.1 in an F-4. Bushong notes with humor, "All the aircraft I flew are out of active service, and, if any of them are still in existence, they are genuine antiques, just like me."

Following Col. Bushong's presentation, docent-led tours through this one-of-a-kind museum, built through the efforts of devoted 390th Bomb Group veterans, their spouses, and their friends, allowed participants to view and learn about artifacts and displays unique to the museum.

On Friday morning, the reunion group returned to the Pima Air and Space Museum hangars to explore the complex, including the opportunity to board the guided tram ride for a ninety-minute tour of the complex's expansive static aircraft display. Characterized by its eclectic yet extensive collection, the museum highlights hundreds of aircraft and thousands of artifacts. Featuring indoor and outdoor aircraft collections, audio recordings, videos, and an exhibit dedicated to Women in Flight, this 80-acre museum visit truly lives up to its mission statement of "Creating unlimited horizons in aerospace education through the preservation and presentation of the history of flight."

The Board of Directors' annual meeting convened Friday afternoon, at which time Kevin

Conant was appointed interim secretary and Steve Snyder accepted the 2023 Reunion Chairmanship position. One item of note was the announcement that, through the efforts of Steve Snyder, a 306th plaque will be installed at the Mighty Eighth Museum Memorial Garden. The 306th BGHA was able to obtain the final space available.

Presided by Sue Sharkey, President, the 306th BGHA General Meeting was held Saturday morning. At that time, it was disclosed the 2023 reunion of the 306th BGHA would be held in conjunction with the Eighth Air Force Historical Society in mid-October in Ontario, California. These plans keep with the organization's previous decision to join the 8th AFHS for future reunions. However, due to pandemic restrictions, the 2020 reunion, which was scheduled to be a joint reunion in Memphis, TN, did not occur. The 2023 Ontario reunion will ensure that 306th members can enjoy their own hospitality room and banquet dinner.

The Folded Wings ceremony, officiated by Past President Rev. Bill Feeser, commenced with the Presentation of Colors by the Davis Monthan AFB USAF Color Guard. Richard Perline then shared his father's life story, 1st Lt. Abraham Perline, 423rd. The Lights of Remembrance, a candle-lighting ceremony honoring all veterans, included reading the names of those most recently deceased veterans, family members, and friends of the 306th. A poignant video rendition of *High Flight*, a poem written by Royal Canadian Air Force Spitfire Pilot John Gillespie Magee, Jr. in 1941, four months before his death, and benediction concluded the memorial event.

The afternoon's activities began with a presentation by Steve Snyder, author of *Shot Down, The Story of The Susan Ruth, B-17 and Her Crew*. This award-winning book details the events and experiences of Steve's father, 1st Lt. Pilot Howard Snyder, 369th, and his crew. The presentation highlighted the fascinating story of the *Susan Ruth*, mentioning the unique experiences of each man after their plane was shot down and what they endured. Steve also touched on his methodology in writing the book, which included drawing on stories his father told, reviewing the artifacts his parents kept, research trips to Belgium, published materials, pictures, newspaper articles, correspondences, diaries, and military documents. Finally, to add to

an already captivating presentation, Steve shared his documentary film based on these men and the research involved that culminated in the writing of his book.

The ever-popular Veterans Round Table, hosted by Clayton Snyder, Vice President and grandson of Howard Snyder, featured 306th Veterans Fred Engstrom and Walter Olmsted Jr., who related stories of their experiences during the war. These nonagenarians shared their stories with excellent recall, humor, and enthusiasm. Hearing first-person accounts from the men whose heroic actions won Europe and the world her freedom at significant cost is always the highlight of the reunion.

At the invitation of the 306th, Friday night's First Over Germany dinner included docents from the 390th Museum.



Guest speaker was Walter F. Ram, a B-17 radio operator and POW survivor of the infamous Stalag 17. Ram's story was filled with lessons of resilience and determination. His book, *Helno-Gal*, recounts the story of life in Stalag 17, the infamous Nazi

prison camp where Ram suffered cold, hunger, and the constant threat of being shot by guards. Walter Ram was 16 years old when he joined the service, but at 19, on his sixth mission over Germany, the plane was hit and exploded over Germany. Ram parachuted to safety but was ultimately captured by the Germans and sent to Stalag 17, where he remained for two years. The Dresden bombing provoked Hitler into demanding that all POWs be executed. Although the order was not carried out, Stalag 17 was evacuated. As the Allies approached, the POWs were forced to march over 300 miles to a location on the Austrian side of the Inn River, ironically near Braunau, Hitler's childhood home.

Susan Linton, a 306th member, reunion attendee, and devoted researcher whose father, Robert Folk, was shot down on 14 October 1943 during the Second Schweinfurt (Black Thursday) mission, was also a Stalag 17 survivor. While connecting with Ram, Susan gained additional insight into the notorious prisoner of war camp.

Saturday night's 306th BGHA and Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association Banquet commenced with bestowing three board

members with Thurman Shuller and William "Bill" Houlihan Awards.

After a hiatus of six years, the awards committee determined the organization should recognize three 306th BGHA members. For his tireless goal of sharing the history of the Eighth Air Force during World War II and for his service on the 306th Board of Directors, Steve Snyder was presented with the William Houlihan Award. This award exemplifies the highest level of participation and service to the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association. Those presented with this award are recognized for their participation and service to the Association.

Recipients of the Thurman Shuller Award were Cliff Deets, 306th BGHA Historian, whose wealth of knowledge as an ardent researcher, has addressed hundreds of inquiries over the years, and Nancy Huebotter, Editor of the 306th Echoes magazine, for her dedication and skill in writing, editing, and publishing the twice-yearly official publication of the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association. The Thurman Shuller Award is the highest award to be conferred by the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association in recognition of the widely recognized outstanding achievements of Thurman Shuller to the men of the 306th Bomb Group. Persons selected for this award must have made particularly notable and long-term contributions to the 306th BGHA and/or achievement in the preservation and dissemination of 306th Bomb Group history.

The melodic voices of the Manhattan Dolls Trio entertained the evening's dinner guests with the nostalgic tunes of the era. The classic songs from the 1940s linked families at home and those soldiers abroad. It boosted the morale of the US troops and comforted those on the home front.

Sacrifices made by the greatest generation inspire and guide us. It has been written, "We are who we are, and we have what we have because of them. They are our heroes, role models, and examples of all that is good."

They fought gallantly to grant us the opportunity for the freedom we enjoy.

The men and women of the World War II era got this nation through the most difficult of times, and while doing so, they made us all very proud. It is our duty to remember. After 2 ½ years of COVID-mandated isolation, it was gratifying to have the opportunity to gather in remembrance of the brave men of the 306th.

Folded Wings Candle Lighting Ceremony Honors Those We Have Lost



At each reunion, the 306th Bomb Group community comes together to remember those who are no longer with us physically, but are certain to be with us in spirit.

The script from this year's event is as follows:

Mike Prentice, son of Albert John Prentice, 423rd squadron navigator with the Eugene Bumpas *Queen Jeannie* crew and POW of the Second Schweinfurt Raid, lights the first remembrance candle to honor the long-standing shared legacies of the 306th Bomb Group and the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association.

Susan Linton, daughter of Robert Folk, flight engineer and top-turret gunner on the Vernon Cole crew of the 423rd Squadron, and POW of the Second Schweinfurt Raid lights the candle to remember ground crews and air staff who serviced the aircraft and supported ground operations.

Ground crews kept the aircraft maintained in brutal and sometimes primitive conditions.

Lighting the candle to remember combat crews is Walter Olmsted III, son of veteran Walter F. Olmsted, Jr., who served as tail gunner on the Billy Casseday crew of the 369th squadron in his first tour, and as gunnery officer in his second tour with the Casey Jones Project.

Douglas MacArthur once said, "The soldier above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." Those who returned from missions went through a debriefing during which they recalled the horrors they saw in the sky and returned to empty beds in the

barracks not knowing the fate of those missing, forever wondering, why not me?

Allegra Snyder, grand-daughter-in-law of Pilot Howard Snyder, pilot from the 369th squadron (along with a soon to be 4th generation member of the 306th BGHA), lights the candle to remember prisoners of war, evades, and internees. The best descriptive word for these men is survivor – forged by the intensity of the air battle and the tenure of captivity after. Enduring wounds, forced marches, loss of basic freedoms, rights, and individual dignity, they survived sustained by those intangibles of the human spirit – hope, faith, and inner strength.

Lighting the candle to remember all those killed in action and missing in action is Barbara Wood, daughter of Robert H. Wood, pilot with the 369th squadron who reported for duty 13 September 1944, and completed his tour in March of 1945. Let us be as one in honoring the sacrifice of America's armed services to ensure that our great nation stays free.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those that have paid the ultimate price for this cause.

Bruce Chase, son of Carl R. Chase, radio operator with the Joseph Couris crew of the 367th squadron, lights a candle to honor our partners throughout Europe who in many ways keep the memory of the 306th Bomb Group and Second Schweinfurt mission alive. From adopting graves of fallen airmen, erecting memorial crew tributes, to those who have reopened the 306th Museum at Thurleigh – we are forever grateful.

Lighting the candle to honor our Gold Star Families is Craig Engstrom, son of veteran Fred Engstrom, pilot with the 423rd squadron who served from February 1945 to April 1945. Many of our fallen rest in foreign soil. We honor these families for raising children with profound sense of love of country and a willingness to sacrifice their very lives for our country. We all take comfort in knowing that they will never be forgotten.



Tucson Reunion Photo Album

Kevin Conant, Photographer

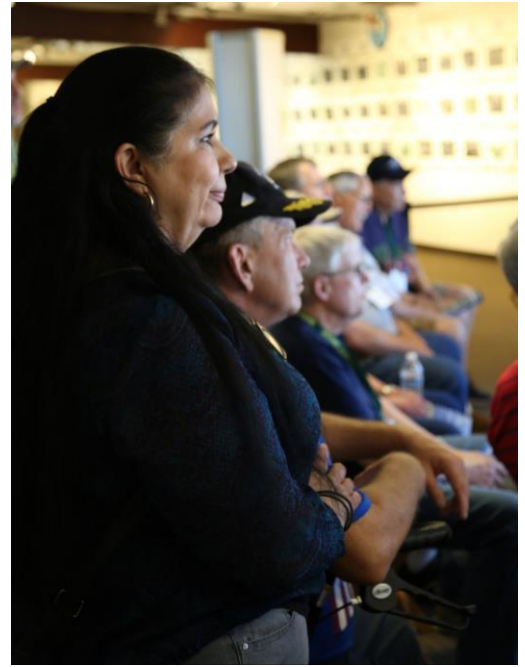


390th Museum



Richard B. Bushong, Colonel (USAF Ret.)





Veterans Round Table Clayton Snyder, Moderator



Fred Engstrom, Pilot (423rd)



Walter Olmsted, Jr, Tail Gunner (369th)

Shot Down Documentary Presented by Steve Snyder, Author



306th BGHA Board of Directors



Left to right: Sue Sharkey (President), Clayton Snyder (Vice President), Steve Snyder (Director at Large), Deb Conant (Reunion Chair), Bruce Chase (Membership), Nancy Huebotter (**E**choes Editor), Cliff Deets (Historian), Mike Prentice (Director at Large, PX), Sally Hanley (Treasurer)

Folded Wings Memorial Tribute to the Fallen



Honor Guard from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Arizona



Reverend Bill Feeser, Folded Wings Host



Richard Perline, honoring his father, Abraham Perline

The Annual General Business Meeting



Speaker Walter F. Ram and Manhattan Dolls Entertainment



Walter F. Ram, Radio Operator, and POW detainee in Stalag 17.



Deb Conant, 2022 Reunion Chair with Walter Ram and son Walter Ram, Jr.



Manhattan Dolls



Manhattan Dolls with Veterans Walter Olmsted and Fred Engstrom



Heading toward Ontario, California for the 2023 reunion!

William “Bill” Houlihan and Thurman Shuller Award Recipients



Steve Snyder, recipient of the William Houlihan Award with Vice President Clayton Snyder and President Sue Sharkey.

Cliff Deets, recipient of the Thurman Shuller Award with Vice President Clayton Snyder and President Sue Sharkey.



Nancy Huebotter, recipient of the Thurman Shuller Award with Cliff Deets.



2022 Reunion Attendees



2022 Board of Directors



Second Generation



Third Generation

Our Veterans and Their Family



Veterans Fred Engstrom and Walter Olmsted, Jr.



Walter Olmsted III and Walter Olmsted, Jr.



Craig and Sally Engstrom, Fred Engstrom, Delisha Donnelly, and Dave Donnelly



Deb and Kevin Conant



Thomas and Lillian Smith with daughter Sally Hanley



Mike and Kathi Prentice



David Jordan and Sue Sharkey



Jackie and Bill Feeser



Connie and David Gregory



**SUPPORT
the
306th Bomb Group Historical
Association
when you shop at smile.amazon.com/
It is easy!
Amazon donates .05% of
your price from each eligible
AmazonSmile purchase.**

How to sign up for AmazonSmile

How to use AmazonSmile on a web browser:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com
3. Select your charity
4. Start shopping! Remember to checkout at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for your chosen charity.
Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at smile.amazon.com.

How to use AmazonSmile using the Amazon app on your mobile phone:

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app
2. Navigate to the main menu (=)
3. Tap on Settings and then select "AmazonSmile"
4. Select your charity and then follow the on-screen instructions to turn ON AmazonSmile in the mobile app
5. Once AmazonSmile has been activated in your app, future eligible app purchases will generate a donation for the charity you have selected.

OR

Simply type the URL below into your browser:

https://smile.amazon.com/?ref=smi_se_dshb_bk_smi

For 2022 to date, AmazonSmile donations to the 306th Bomb Group have totaled \$109.25 through purchases made by our benevolent members and friends.

Spoon Carried Home by Stalag Luft 1 POW

The spoils of war are sometimes unfathomable.

What our young service personnel sometimes carried home in their duffle bags as an artifact from what they had endured is often surprising. For example, after surviving nine months in a German POW camp, one young man, imprisoned in Stalag Luft 4 and later Stalag Luft 1, carried home a large aluminum hall spoon. The obverse of the handle is engraved with the Luftwaffe opening-winged eagle clutching a swastika insignia in one of its talons. The reverse is marked T.W.S. 39 (Thomas Wielputz Slingen and year manufactured), FL.U.V. (Flieger Unterkunft Verwaltung – Flight Barracks Administration).

As with any nation's military, the Germans had garrisons and barracks to house and care for their troops when they were not in the field. But, following the adage that "an army runs on its stomach," one of the significant concerns and main benefits of military life was the guarantee of three "square" meals a day.

When in garrison/barracks, the meals were served in mess halls that had to be outfitted with enough cutlery and flatware to help feed the number of personnel stationed there.

How the spoon came to be in the possession of the young imprisoned airman is a story that is lost to history. However, it is safe to say, it was brought home as a trophy of war.



306th Airman Accounted For

On 23 May 2022, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Micael Uhrin, 21, killed during World War II, was accounted for on 12 May 2022.

In October 1943, Uhrin was assigned to 369th Bombardment Squadron, 306th Bombardment Group, 40th combat Wing, 8th Air Force in the European Theater. On 14 October, the B-17F Flying Fortress bomber on which he was serving as the radio operator was flying a mission to Schweinfurt, Germany, when it was shot down by enemy fighters near Rommelhausen and Langenbergheim, Hessen, Germany.

Uhrin's bomber was one of 60 aircraft lost during the mission. The surviving B-17 crew members said Uhrin was killed before the plane crashed, and none witnessed him bail out. His death was confirmed shortly after the crash, but there is no record of his burial location.

Uhren was part of the Gustav ("Gus") Holstrom crew. On the morning of 14 October 1943, which was later to become known as "Black Thursday," the crew was briefed on the primary and secondary targets, but were also advised, "If for any reason at all you are unable to hit either of these targets, hit any airfield, marshaling yard, or any other target of military value." Major (?) Robertson then read a telegram from Eighth Bomber Command Headquarters that stressed the importance of the raid and ended with the admonishment, "good bombing, good shooting, good luck, and goodbye."

The combat diary of S/Sgt Bill Oliver, Waist Gunner aboard the *Piccadilly Commando*, describes the near-chaotic situation inside the doomed craft just after it was hit shortly after the formation crossed the coast of Holland.

An article in the July 2011 issue of *Echoes* [Issue #137, Vol. 36, No. 3, July 2011, page 5] (which erroneously records the date of the Second Schweinfurt event as 14 August 1943, when in fact, the date should be noted as 14 October 1943), summarizes the destructive incident and the fate of each of the ten crew members aboard this B-17F.

The only crewman that did not survive the fighter attack was Mike Uhrin. One month

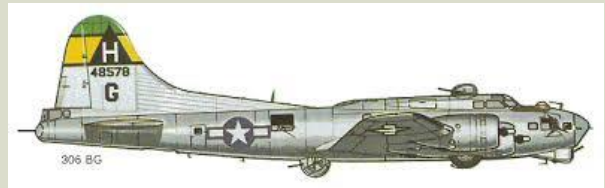
earlier, flying with much of the same crew and Gus Holstrom as the pilot of *Liberty Belle*, the Flying Fortress crash-landed after overshooting the runway and was ultimately salvaged. All 10 crew members were able to return to duty. The 14 October mission had been Uhrin's second since arriving at Thurleigh. His body was never found. However, posthumously he was awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart.

According to information found on the DPAA website, for over 70 years, the effort to recover, identify, and return the remains to their families for burial with full military honors continues. To date, over 300,000 World War II service members have been located.

Through the work of DPAA, the remains of Staff Sergeant Michael Uhren were accounted for.

His name is permanently inscribed on the "Tablets of the Missing" at the Cambridge American Cemetery.

Given In Memory of...



Philip Mundell, 369th Ball Turret Gunner/Toggler, by Marty Mundell

John P. Mockus, 368th Copilot, by Patrick Mockus

George S. Monser, 368th Waist Gunner, by Carolyn Kraft

Herbert W. Hawkes, 423rd Engineer/Top Turret Gunner, by Holt Carson

Forrest Dale "Si" Menzie, 367th Tail Gunner, by Athalia Peters

Kenneth A. Wait, 368th Copilot, by Steve and Carol Sewell

John R. Grimm, 367th Armament/Supply/Chemical Officer

Edward A. Gregory, 368th Armorer, by Dave Gregory

*Gifts may be made in memory of 306th veterans or family by sending a check payable to the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association with the designation "306th Memorial Fund" on the memo line of the check. Send the check to Sally Hanley, Treasurer, PO Box 2547, Lyons, CO 80540. 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.*

Thurleigh Museum Notes

Editor's Note: The following are England based newsletters, February and May, published by Thurleigh Museum volunteer Mark Fussell.



306th BG Museum Newsletter 15 – February 2022

Welcome, all, to the 306th Museum Newsletter here at Thurleigh.

Hopefully, I corrected the numbering after noticing we had two issues identified as number 13 with different months! So welcome to Newsletter 15!

80 Year Celebration

We have a date for the 80-year celebration at the museum; this will coincide with the visit of the 306th BG Association from the USA, the relatives and friends of those that served at the Airfield.

The date we have set aside is **Saturday 13th August 2022**. We currently have military vehicles that will camp overnight and have displays set up. We will update you further when we have other confirmed events nearer the time.

Steve Snyder, author of *Shot Down: The True Story of Pilot Howard Snyder and the Crew of the B-17 Susan Ruth,* will attend.

Our director, John Watson-Read has done a great job adding/updating the museum displays to refresh your experience of the 306th, so please come along and show your support.

Merchandise



Some good news on the merchandise front, we have teamed up with GDMK designs. This will allow us to offer “306th BG” merchandise, which will be available in our PX stores at the museum.

We will also try and set up an online shop, but all merchandise can be ordered directly through the museum.

I really need your feedback on what type of merchandise you would like. For example, illustrated above is a water bottle, a mouse mat with the 367th tail fin colours, and a mug!

This is a UK service at present.

Robert Starzynski

I recently bought from eBay a picture of Robert Starzynski; I was intrigued by who he was and why the information on the back of the picture stated Chapter 13 p116 Thurleigh.

I was not prepared for his amazing story!! Robert (Bob) Starzynski from Chicago, Illinois, enlisted in the Army on January 16, 1943. He was 18 years old. By June of that year, he was in England assigned to the 4th Station Complement Squadron of the 306th Bombardment Group (BG) located at Thurleigh, England. After numerous requests to be reassigned to a combat unit, he was trained as a B-17 Flying Fortress gunner and attached to the 306th BG, 367th Bomb Squadron. His first accredited mission was a bomber raid over Berlin, Germany, on March 6, 1944. After flying several missions as a crew replacement, he was assigned to the Virgil W. Dingman crew as a tail gunner after their tail gunner was killed in action.

On June 17, 1944, after a mission delay due to weather conditions and cloud cover over the primary target, a secondary “visual target of opportunity” was selected. The target was the bridge at Noyen, France. Unfortunately, anti-aircraft fire over the French Coast hit the number three engine of the Dingman B-17, and a fire broke out.

Flames from the engine went into the slipstream of the aircraft, and a fire was threatening the tail of the plane. Pilot First Lieutenant Dingman ordered the crew to bail out.

After difficulties bailing out, Robert evaded capture and joined the French Resistance; he returned to Thurleigh in September 1944.

Please refer to the link

<https://www.ww2history.org/war-in-europe/parachuting-into-occupied-france-b-17-tail-gunner-starzynski-evades-germans-with-some-help-from-the-french-resistance/>

[Editor's Note: The link references an article written by 306th BGHA member Col. Susan O'Konski (Ret.)]



I'm still trying to find the reference to Chapter 13 p116.

T/Sgt Robert Folk

I received a lovely email from Susan Linton, whose father was Robert Folk. I would like to share this with you.

“Just wanted to share some more information. I will try to explain briefly! In 2016 I was contacted by Sue Moyer from the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association to see if I was related to Robert Folk. She had been contacted by Roy Gottgens from Beek, Netherlands. He was in the planning stages of building a memorial to the Cole Crew because their plane had crashed in his hometown of Beek, Netherlands. He was trying to find relatives of the crew members. Little did he know that I had inherited a chest containing letters that had been written between all the family members of the crew after their plane had been shot down. Even though I did not know any of these people, I set about to locate living relatives of the crew members through these letters. A remarkable set of circumstances occurred over the next 10 months, and on October 14, 2017, 31 family members (representing 7 of the 10 crew members) met for the first time in Beek to attend the dedication. I cannot begin to explain the emotional experience of that day. We were treated to a luncheon before the memorial ceremony, a gathering afterward, a dinner that evening, and a concert at night. I have become the Cole Crew Mother, and we all stay in contact with each other through a newsletter I send out several times a year.

There has been a ceremony each year at the memorial, which the local 8th-grade students

coordinate. They learn about the Cole Crew members and their story by a Dutch friend of Roy's who is a retired teacher and helped with the creation of the memorial.

Roy later wrote a book, *Thunder in Heaven*, about this crew, first in Dutch and then in English. I have attached some pictures from the memorial dedication. It represents the outline of a B-17 with its wing torn off. Cut out in the metal is the saying “Freedom Does Not Come Naturally,” and on the other side is the number of the plane, 42-29971.



B-17 42-29971 CREW

Position	Rank	Name	Status	Note
P	1LT	Vernon K. Cole	KIA	-
CP	2LT	Robert E. Partridge	POW	-
NAV	2LT	Charles R. Kuehn	POW	-
BOMB	2LT	Joseph M. Columbus	POW	-
ENG/TT	T/SGT	Robert D. Folk	POW	-
RO	T/SGT	Robah C. Shields Jr.	KIA	-
BT	S/SGT	Donald Richardson	KIA	-
WG	S/SGT	Frederick W. Zumpf	KIA	-
WG	S/SGT	Adrian H. Wright	POW	-
TG	S/SGT	Irving J. Mills	POW	-

I am truly amazed at Susan's journey and the fantastic memorial to her dad and the crew of 42-29971.



Back row left to right
 Don Arner - Gunner - grounded & didn't fly
 Don Richardson - Gunner killed
 Robert Cloy
 Wallace
 Snidder - Asst. Radio - grounded & didn't fly
 Wright - engineer
 Robert Falk - engineer POW

Front row left to right
 Charles Kiehn - navigator POW
 Vernon Keith
 Cole - pilot killed when the plane went down
 Robert Partridge - Co pilot POW
 Joe Columbus - Bomb. POW



“First over Germany” – Commodore 64

I did not know back in 1988, when I was playing the latest SSI game on my Commodore 64 about flying a B17 Flying fortress, that I would actually be volunteering at the location the game is based on.

The simulation covers the actual events surrounding the formation of the 306th BG, from training to the transition to Thurleigh, and then attempts to complete 25 missions.

The manual also has extracts from the book *First Over Germany*. I'm not sure if Russell Strong was part of the development team, but the detail and history included are very detailed.

If anyone has any other insight into the game, I would be very interested to know.

This then concludes this issue of the 306th BG Museum Newsletter. As soon as we have any further updates, I will let you all know.

If you have some articles you wish to contribute to the newsletter or some Donations to display in the Museum, then please contact us.

All the best,

Mark Fussell





306th BG Museum Newsletter 16 – May 2022

Welcome, all, to the 306th Museum Newsletter here at Thurleigh.

I would like to start by saying welcome to our new volunteers, Kevin Briginshaw and Luke Betts, who have already made significant contributions to the Museum. They also bring with them their knowledge of military vehicles (they may own one or two!!) and the USAAF.

Museum News

The Old Shed is now unrecognisable as “Hut THREE 'O SIX,” the transformation from a building that had more holes than Flying Fortress 42-29649 is now a proud representation of a Nissan Hut. All this has been possible due to the hard work and inspiration of our chairman John Watson-Reed.



May has also seen weekly themed events at the museum. Each group that has visited has been highly appreciative of the work we are doing and very complimentary about the Museum. These events have brought many smiles, not only to our visitors but to us as well.



We are still getting visitors from the surrounding areas saying they did not know we existed or the times we are open.

To help increase this awareness, the museum had a stand at Thurleigh during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Centre stage was the Queen naming 42-102547 the *Rose of York*.

Named for the then Princess Elizabeth Windsor (now Queen Elizabeth II), the *Rose of York* was originally called *Princess Elizabeth*, but that did not meet with any official approval. So, the aircraft was renamed *Rose of York* instead and was christened by the Princess on her royal visit to the airfield. It was part of the 306th Bomb Group throughout its 62 successful missions. It was destroyed on the return from a raid to Berlin on its 63rd mission, hit by accurate and concentrated AA fire. The last contact indicated one engine out and another streaming gasoline lost over the English Channel with all 9 crew and a reporter.

The Lego B17-Flying fortress was a hit with the kids, and many questions were asked. (And yes, I have transfers to convert it to the 306th.)



I would ask you all to share posts on social media from the Facebook page and the website. The more we get recognised and increase the visitors to the museum, the more we can improve displays and increase the awareness of the 306th and all the sacrifices they made to make sure we have the freedom we have today.

Life in Bedford During the Second World War

Bedford historian Stuart Antrobus has written a new, illustrated local history of *Life in Bedford During the Second World War*.

It tells the story of how Bedfordians' lives were affected by the dramatic upheaval of war between 1939 and 1945. Peppered with the voices and

personal experiences of men, women, and children who lived through this turbulent period, it captures the life-changing ways in which people on the home front fought their own domestic war locally. The book is illustrated with over 80 photographs, some for the first time. Needless to say, it features the friendly invasion of thousands of young American servicemen to the airfields of north Bedfordshire, who brought a new vitality to the lives of all.



On sale at £11 at The Eagle Bookshop, info@eaglebookshop.co.uk.

80-Year and Specific Museum Items for Sale

In addition to the squadron merchandise for the 367th, 368th, 369th, and 423rd, we have started receiving in the PX store at the museum our 80th Anniversary merchandise and museum-specific items for sale.

We also will have a limited edition run of 80 pieces only available on August 13th of the 80-year anniversary logo. What this is, I will reveal closer to the time.

T-Shirts are being developed and will be available soon, along with the squadron patches.



The special 80-year logo only to be found on exclusive merchandise.



So please, when you visit the museum, have a look at what is in the stores. All the proceeds are then used to improve the museum and media to promote the museum.

I'm also looking for suggestions on what you would like to see for sale in the PX Stores.

The Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial

It was with great honour that I could witness John Watson-Read be part of the Memorial Day event at the Cambridge American Cemetery on the 30th of May.



The wreath was purchased and sent by the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association and represented the veterans and families of those that served at Thurleigh during World War II.

The ceremony was very moving and enforced the reason why the museum exists.

The wreath was laid against the Wall of the Missing, and above was the name.



After the ceremony, I took some time to visit some of the 306th personnel.

Ryan, Edward N – S/SGT 369th 306th New York



On 22 February 1944, on a mission to the JU88 plant at Bernburg, Flying Fortress 42- 39935 was seen with No. 4 engine smoking while heading to the enemy coast. It was then reported to have been hit by flak near Bonn. They were never seen again.

It was fate we now remember him and his crew.

A/C Number	42-39935
Total time for complete mission	MISSING IN ACTION
○(P)	Horst, R. 2nd. Lieut.
○(CP)	Wright, E. E. 2nd. Lt.
○(R)	Joplin, J. C. "
○(B)	Schnitz, H. N. "
○(E)	Osgood, W. I. S/Sgt.
○(R)	Cook, A. G.
○(C)	Kloster, L. M. Sgt.
○(G)	Justice, E. A. "
○(G)	Ryan, E. H. "
○(G)	Whefeld, J. E. "
()	MISSING IN ACTION



T/ Sergeant Willie Sanders Fant – 06284768, Army Air Corps. As a tail gunner on a B-17, he completed 30 missions between December 1943 – May 1944, and returned to the States.

He returned to England and was killed in action on January 8, 1945, at the age of 27. He served in the 368th Bomber

Squadron 306th Bomb Group. He received the Air Medal on February 11, 1944, for five separate bomber missions, and three Oak Leaf Clusters. On May 11, 1944, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross for valor (DFC) on many heavy bombardment missions. his citation reads, “Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Fant, fighting from his gun position, has warded off many enemy attacks and has materially aided in the success of each of these missions.”



Captain Raymond J. Check took off on his twenty-fifth mission, which should have been the last of his tour, on June 26, 1943, flying Chennault’s Pappy III. It was a milk-run bombing mission of a German airfield in Tricqueville, France. A big party was planned for the evening of their return.

During the bomb run, Check’s temporary co- pilot, Lt. Col. James W. Wilson (an old squadron leader who wanted to go on Check’s final mission), removed his gloves to make some adjustments to the engine. During the final seconds of the bomb run, a German fighter that went unnoticed due to the angle of the sun,

swooped down upon the Flying Fortress. One 20mm cannon shell hit Capt. Check in the neck, exploded, and killed him. A fire started in the cockpit, badly burning Wilson’s hands. A crewmate put out the fire with an extinguisher. Col. Wilson continued flying with a melted oxygen mask, steering with his arms above the elbows since his hands were too badly burned.

Still under attack, a machine gun bullet hit the box of flares behind the pilot’s seat. The flares exploded, created another fire, and blew open the bomb bay doors. Fortunately, there was a third pilot on board, Lt. William Cassidy, Check’s regular co-pilot, who was acting as a waist gunner that day. Cassidy replaced Wilson in the co-pilot seat. With only one other uninjured man on board, Cassidy brought Chennault’s *Pappy III* back to base. The radio was out, and there were no remaining flares to announce an emergency landing. Instead of landing the plane into the wind as normal, Cassidy purposefully landed the plane downwind against incoming traffic. He wanted to avoid the reception group waiting to celebrate Check’s 25th mission. It included an American army nurse who was going to marry Captain Check the next day.



Albert E Tessier, Jr.— was on his first mission to Bremen as a ball turret gunner and was killed when they crashed at Gt Haseley, near Oxford. The B-17 blew up and disintegrated.



John A Strauser – He flew with Leland Hendershot on 31 October 1943. KIA on 13 November 1943 in B-17 Buttercup #423142. Assigned target Bremen led by Capt. Wheeler. Poor visibility prevented assembly, severe turbulence and icing are thought to have been the

reason for the loss of this aircraft. Crashed at Great Haseley, near Oxford, killing all 10 crew. Six of the crew were on their first mission (was colleague of Albert E. Tessier, Jr.).



Thomas S Hover – The information I can find is that Thomas died in a motor vehicle accident.



Jack B Eppler – Killed in Action, from a 20mm shell from a canon burst from enemy aircraft over the Berlin area. Tail Gunner.



80th Anniversary of US Troop Arrival

Cambridge American Cemetery Honors US War Dead

The Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial is one of 26 administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission but is the only one in England. Over 3800 American war dead are interred, and more than 5000 names are inscribed on the Wall of the Missing; approximately 118 of which were part of the 306th Bomb Group.

This year’s Memorial Day Ceremony marked the 80th anniversary of “Operation Bolero” (often referred to as “the friendly invasion”), the code name for the movement of troops by the United States into England during World War II.

American flags, and photos of the men and women buried on the pristine grounds of the cemetery that had been collected, were posted at their respective gravesites. These photos put a face to the name carved on the white cross or the Jewish Star of David. Yet, looking at each face is a reminder of just how young these individuals were who forthrightly determined they would fight for our national interests.

More than 1200 people attended the ceremonial event, and 108 wreaths were laid. There was also a fly-by from the US Air Force and vintage aircraft from the Imperial War Museum Duxford, including the B-17 Flying Fortress *Sally B*, an American Spitfire, and three Piper Cubs. Music was provided by a Royal British Legion Piper and the US Air Force Europe (USAFE) band.



*They never came back.
Their silence lives on.*

In future editions, I will highlight other 306th Personnel buried at Cambridge.

The day was made complete when we had a fly over by the only B17 Flying Fortress in Europe, *Sally B*.

This concludes this issue of the 306th BG Museum Newsletter. As soon as we have any further updates, I will let you all know.

If you have some articles you wish to contribute to the newsletter or some donations to display in the museum, then please contact us.

The museum is run on your kind donations, so when you are able, please use the *DONATE* button on the museum website.

All the best,
Mark Fassell

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.

Barranco, John S, communications chief (368th), 95, of Jackson, MS, passed away 21 October 2021. He participated in the Casey Jones project, continued to serve through the Korean War, and had a lifelong career in insurance. His love of music led him to be the drum major at LSU. While in college, he often played in New Orleans nightclubs with such personalities as Louis Prima. Surviving are wife, Camille, sons John Jr, and Vince, daughter Pam, twelve grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Goodwin, Shelby L, engineer (423rd, Robert Kimball crew), died 17 January 2022 in Fort Worth, TX, at 103 years old. He retired from the Air Force after 20 years as a Chief Master Sergeant. He was employed as a maintenance supervisor for Vulcan Rod and Steel following his Air Force service. He is survived by daughters Docia and Sandra, granddaughters Kristie and Kathleen, and three great-grandchildren.

Kennedy, Richard J. Jr., tail gunner (423rd, John O'Brien crew) 96, of Yonkers, NY, passed away 8 May 2018. After the war, he joined the New York City Police Department, becoming a detective fingerprint expert, retiring in 1967 to serve as Security and Safety Director for a mental facility for three years. He then was appointed Photographer for the City of Yonkers, and taught photography and swimming for the Yonkers Park Dept. Also post-War, he joined the Army National Guard, retiring after 28 years as a Lt. Colonel. His wife of 67 years, Margaret, preceded him in death in 2014, at which time they were survived by two daughters, a son, and a grandchild.

Liscavage, Robert S, gunner (368th, Otto Buddenbaum crew), **POW**, age 94, of Wilkes-Barre, PA, passed away 2 September 2016. The aircraft piloted by Lt. Buddenbaum was shot down on 8 March 1943. He was held as a POW for the duration of the war and was awarded the Purple Heart for the numerous wounds he sustained from enemy gunfire. After the war, he served ten years as a superintendent at the General Motors plant in Tonawanda, NY. He later raised, trained, and raced horses, and served as a judge for the New York State Horseman's Association. At the time of his death, he was survived by son William, grandsons Kevin and William, and two great-grandchildren.

Lovelady, George H, (306th BG Hq), 103, of Medina, OH, died 28 April 2022. With the personnel section of headquarters, he joined the 306th in Wendover as a private and advanced to Sergeant Major after three years, eight months at Thurleigh. He had a 34-year career with Standard Oil, where he was employed as an accounting manager. He was a member of the American Legion, and served as president of the Ohio Speed Skating Association. Surviving are children David, Lane, Dane, Jeff, and Eric, fourteen grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren,

Reppy, Henry, gunner (368th, Benjamin Olsen crew), 96, of Robinson Township, PA, passed away 24 January 2021. He served as a mechanical engineer with Pittsburgh Tube Company after the war. He served six years on the Montour School Board and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Married to wife Helen for 73 years, father of Michael, Donna, and Carol, grandfather of Lisa.

Tutun, Edward H, radio operator (423rd, Kenneth Blackshaw crew), 97, of Tierra Verde, FL, died 2 September 2021. After the war, he graduated from Northeastern University and retired as Executive Vice President and a director of W. R. Grace, Inc. He is survived by niece Marjorie Wayne, nephews Stephen Wayne, Bruce Tutun, and Mark Tutun.

Villagran, Alfred C. Jr, ball turret gunner (369th, Robert Stewart crew), 98, of Chesterfield, MO, passed away 26 March 2022. He was an officer with the Midwest 8th Air Force Historical Society and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Surviving is his wife Catherine, daughter Stephanie Mayberry, four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



*Bring me men to match my mountains.
Bring me men to match my shores,
Men to guard the mighty ramparts.
Men to stand at freedom's door.*

*Bring me men to match my mountains.
Men to match their majesty.
Men to climb beyond their summit,
Searching for their destiny.*

*These are men to build a nation, join the mountains
to the sky, Men of faith and inspiration.
Bring me men, bring me men.*



306th Bomb Group Historical Association Annual Membership Registration Form 2022 Calendar Year

Please print all information:

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I am a 306th WWII veteran. 306th Unit/Duty/Job Title: _____

Additional Information (such as POW; year born): _____

If you have an interest in a particular WWII 306th veteran, complete the following about him:

I am not related to him. **OR:** This 306th WWII Veteran is my (relationship): _____

Veteran's Name: _____ 306th 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 306th *ECHOES*, via our website at: www.306bg.us.

DO NOT SEND CASH

306th *ECHOES* Subscription: make check payable to: 306th Bomb Group Historical Association. Memo: *Echoes* 2022.

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

SALLY HANLEY, 306th BGHA TREASURER
PO BOX 2547; LYONS, CO 80540

I want to make a donation to the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association:

*PayPal*TM donations can be made on-line at www.306bg.us using the yellow "Donate" button.

Mail your completed Membership Registration form to:

306TH 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 306th BGHA and that your contact eMail/US Mail information is current.

Ontario, California
Site of the
October 2023
Eighth Air Force Historical Society
and
306th Bomb Group Historical Association
Reunion



Reunion details to be published in *Echoes* and on the 306th BGHA website (www.306bg.us) as they become available.