



Echoes

First Over Germany



Volume 51, Issue 1 & 2

Educate and Communicate

Winter • Spring 2025

Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder. . . .

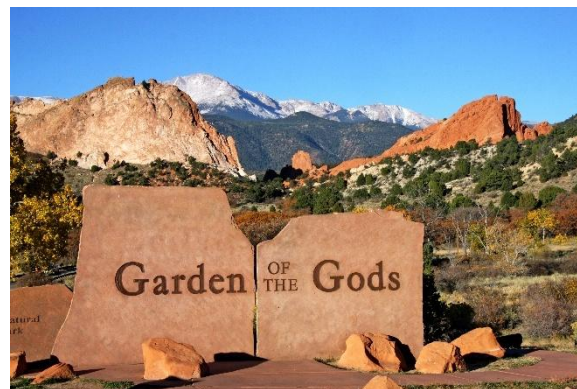
2025 Reunion Set for Colorado Springs



To honor the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, the reunion committee fittingly selected Colorado Springs for the 2025 reunion.



Sitting at the eastern foot of the Rocky Mountains, where breathtaking mountain panoramas and the iconic Pikes Peak offer stunning views, the city boasts a strong military presence and a burgeoning high-tech industry. It is also the home to the US Olympic and US Paralympic Committee Headquarters.



The first scheduled excursion for reunion attendees begins on Thursday, when participants will experience a jeep tour of the Garden of the Gods. Traveling in a custom modified Jeep, visitors to the area designated as a National Natural Landmark will be able to see the garden's red rock formations. A rich ecological resource, it has been noted as "the most striking contrast between plains and mountains in North America," concerning biology, geology, climate, and scenery. Archeological evidence

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

306th Museum Thurleigh

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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 President Steve Snyder

Here we are well into 2025! In my last column, I wrote about the 2024

Reunion in New Orleans, and now we are planning for the 2025 Reunion in Colorado Springs. Although communication about the 2025 Reunion has been made several times, and all the details are included on other pages in the newsletter, I hope those members planning to attend have reserved your rooms already. Please remember to always reserve your room right away if you plan to go to a reunion so you have your accommodation assured. If for some reason you are unable to attend, you can always cancel.

The highlight of this year's reunion is spending a day at the U.S Air Force Academy. We will have lunch there, and I am very excited that the luncheon speaker will be Colonel Nancy Taylor who is the Commanding Officer of the 306th Flying Training Group, which is the legacy organization of the 306th Bomb Group.

The 306th Flying Training Group provides soaring, parachuting and powered flight as character building operations focused on enhancing the airmanship and leadership of USAFA and Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets. The group also provides flight training for all Air Force officers scheduled to enter Pilot, Combat Systems Operator, and Remotely Piloted Aircraft training. On an annual basis, the 306th Flying Training Group trains more than 4,000 cadets and officers.

I want to thank all the members who have filled out a registration form on our website at <https://www.306bg.us/forms/membership-form> to be identified as an “official member” of the 306th BGHA.

Since we do not have a dues-paying system to know who our members are, the only way for us to determine our membership is for people to complete a registration form each year. So, if you have not done so, please take a couple minutes to complete the form online.

I also want to thank all the generous people who have made donations this year. Again, since the 306th

BGHA does not charge dues, donations are basically the only source of financial support we have and rely on.

Finally, on June 5 an Eighth Air Force Memorial was dedicated in Normandy, France, and I attended the ceremonies. D-Day would never have happened if the 8th Air Force had not defeated the Luftwaffe and gained air supremacy for the Allies. It is long overdue for the “Mighty Eighth” to be recognized. There will be statues of four men, one of which is Maynard “Snuffy Smith” of the 306th Bomb Group! I will be writing more about this in the next issue of *Echoes*.

It is our duty to remember.

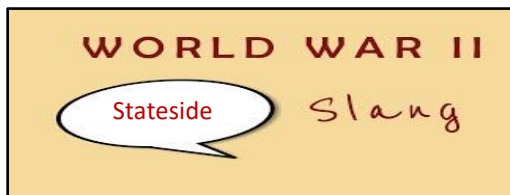
Steve Snyder, President ■



Have you neglected to renew your membership in the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association?
Are you one of our “lost” members that we have not heard from for quite a while?

Membership is free and the organization is very easy to join! Go to the website www.306bg.us to complete the membership form on-line. Or, you can access the form on the last page of this issue of *Echoes* then mail it to our membership chairman, Bruce Chase.

We look forward to you continuing your membership!



Ever wonder about the origin of a word? And how did some of that military jargon become part of our vocabulary?

The term **stateside** originated sometime between 1939 and 1945. It is believed the word originated with sailors in Hawaii (then a territory), but it gained prominence during World War II and was

Memorial Garden Progress at 306th Bombardment Museum



The Memorial Garden to honor those who served in the 306th Bomb Group is steadily becoming more populated.

The 306th BGHS, in partnership with the UK’s 306th Bombardment Group Museum, has designed memorial plaques to honor veterans who served at Thurleigh (Station 111). The museum continues to make them available. By donating \$25 (US) or more, a plaque will be placed at the Museum in honor of the donor’s veteran. Please refer to the form on the following page for more information regarding the ordering process. All request forms should be sent to Mark Fussell at Fuss306thbg@outlook.com. If you have any questions you are asked to contact Mark at the email address provided. Once you have agreed upon the plaque design, you will be invoiced for your order. ■

characterized as military slang. The word is rare in American English except among speakers with extensive international connections (i.e., military personnel, expatriates, etc.). “Stateside” slang refers to anything related to or within the United States, particularly the contiguous states.

The earliest recorded use of the word “stateside” (in print), according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, was in 1942 and attributed to the *Williamsburg (Iowa) Journal-Tribune*.

In the United Kingdom, the nearest equivalent is **blighty**. This informal term was used in Britain or England during World Wars I and II. ■

306th Bombardment Memorial Plaques (\$25.00)

Order Form:

Plaque Type (check one) <i>See sample below.</i>	Garden		Wall Mount	
---	--------	--	------------	--

Which Squadron Patch? This will be shown on the plaque alongside the Triangle H.

367 th		368 th		369 th		423 rd	
-------------------	--	-------------------	--	-------------------	--	-------------------	--

Aircraft Type and Serial Number

Aircraft Type and Serial Number to allow aircraft artwork creation. Check box ☐ if no aircraft image included.

B-17F		B-17G		Tail Letter	
-------	--	-------	--	-------------	--

Serial Number		Plane Name	
---------------	--	------------	--

Memorial Wording

Use these lines to enter your desired tribute wording.

Fin Color (Top Color + Yellow) Refer to sample below. Check box ☐ if no fin color to be included.

Red 367 th		White 368 th		Green 369 th		Blue 423 rd	
--------------------------	--	----------------------------	--	----------------------------	--	---------------------------	--

Other Wording/Motto Check box ☐ if no additional wording to be included

--

Extra Voluntary Donation

\$	
----	--

Email Address

--

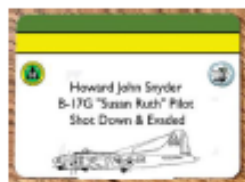
This allows the 306th Bombardment Group Museum to invoice you directly for the Memorial Plaque and any Voluntary Donation.

Please email your form to Fuss306thbg@outlook.com

If you have any questions or need our assistance, please contact us using this email address.

You will not be invoiced until you are happy with the final design.

If ordering multiple plaques, use separate order form for each.



Example: Wall Plaque



Example: Garden Plaque

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 have donated to date in 2025. As of 2 May 2025, the association has received a total of \$4,856.19 from 45 supporters.

The 306th BGHA can also now receive donations through Zeffy (<https://www.zeffy.com>), a zero-fee fundraising software platform for nonprofits. You can donate to the 306th BGHA via Zeffy by visiting our website (<https://www.306bg.us/>) and clicking on the "Donate" button.

Zeffy is a fundraising platform exclusively for nonprofit organizations that allows donors to share one-time and recurring donations with zero fees. Zeffy is solely supported by any additional amount donors are willing to contribute on top of their donation to the specified organization.

We also still welcome donations through PayPal or check!

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 "306th Memorial Fund" along with the veterans name you are honoring on the memo line of your check or as a notation when using PayPal. For additional information regarding memorial donations, see page 22 of this issue of *Echoes*.

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

DONATION FOR THE 306TH BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Make checks payable to:

306th Bomb Group Historical Association

Send to:

Sally Smith, 306th BGHA Treasurer

PO Box 17163

Boulder, CO 80308

Name

By initialing here (_____), I hereby confirm this current contact information should be used for my FREE membership registration/renewal for 2024, indicating my continuing interest in the 306th BGHA.

Address:

eMail:

Telephone Number(s): _____

This donation is being made in memory of:

Name: _____ Relationship to 306th: _____

Date: _____



Chuck Roskovich Named 306th BGHA Secretary

Chuck Roskovich, who has been named 306th BGHA Secretary, recently retired as Vice President of Retail Operations for Publix Super Markets, a privately held Fortune 100 company founded in 1930 and operating across eight southeastern states. His career with the company spanned 47.5 years, beginning at age 14. Over nearly five decades, Chuck held numerous positions of increasing responsibility.

Originally from Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania, Chuck moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, during his childhood and relocated multiple times throughout his career. Recently, he and his wife of 42 years, Cindy, fulfilled a long-standing promise to retire in Sarasota, Florida, where their two children and two grandsons live. Cindy's unwavering support throughout their moves across four states was a cornerstone of Chuck's successful career.

In retirement, Chuck enjoys indulging his passion for cars, racing, shows, and tours. A dedicated history enthusiast, particularly of American history, he also enjoys working in his garage and taking on projects around his new home. Above all, Chuck treasures the time he now spends with his two grandsons, finding immense joy in being a part of their lives.

Chuck is the nephew of 2nd LT Michael Roskovich, who served in the 423rd bomb squadron with the 306th bomb group as a radioman and gunner. Mike arrived in Thurleigh when the airbase was becoming operational, and his inaugural mission was the very first mission of the 306th Bomb Group in October of 1942. He was the first man in the 8th Air Force to complete his 25 missions over the European Theater of Operations on April 5, 1943. Instead of returning to the States at the end of his tour, Mike elected to remain with the 306th and accepted a commission as 2nd Lt. and the position of Gunnery Officer. Due to heavy losses in the 306th, Mike flew 8 additional combat missions as a replacement crew member. During his service, Mike Roskovich was awarded the Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good

Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. On February 4, 1944, he was killed during a crash on take-off from RAF Drem, East Lothian, Scotland, on a cross-country flight in B-17G #42-31715. Michael Roskovich was laid to rest at the Cambridge American Cemetery in Cambridge, England.

When asked how he learned about his Uncle Mike, Chuck explained it was through his dad, the youngest of 11 children and very close to his big brother "Mikey." Chuck's father relayed many stories about his Uncle Mike and recalls a vacation one year to visit family in the Pittsburgh area. The trip included a drive down Roskovich Street, named after his Uncle Mike. But at the time, Chuck was young, and it all did not resonate much with him until one day when he was in his 20s, his dad gave him everything the family had from his Uncle Mike. At that time, reading newspaper articles, personal letters, and books about his uncle and looking at all the photos and his medals, Chuck learned how much of a hero Michael Roskovich was. He began to understand his responsibility to uphold his legacy and those of others who served. Chuck was passionate about learning more, but this was 1986, well before the convenience of the internet; most communication occurred via written letters. Through his correspondence, Chuck connected with Russell Strong, who, through numerous calls, provided Chuck with information about his uncle. Strong also furnished Chuck with the names and contact information, including that of Dr. Thurman Shuller, who could share with him additional information. He is very grateful to everyone who helped in his pursuit, supplying him with photos, letters, and, most importantly, the stories of his Uncle Mike. Chuck was so impacted by what he learned that he decided to name his son in honor of him. One day, Chuck plans to pass everything on to him.

Chuck had wanted to become involved with the 306th BGHA for some time, but work commitments got in the way. He had promised himself that he would step up and get more involved after retirement. Recently, 306th BGHA President Steve Snyder contacted Chuck, asking if he was ready to participate. Steve needed to fill the Secretary position on the Board of Directors. After reflecting on his promise, Chuck realized the timing was perfect. More importantly, he feels an obligation to preserve and advocate for the legacies of all the heroes who served. He intends to guide his son, Michael, in doing the same. ■



Notes From the Secretary

This column is my first opportunity to address our members as the new Secretary of the 306th BGHA Board of Directors. I realize I have much to learn in making this transition onto the board. I have invested significant time reading past meeting minutes, bylaws, financial reports, and previous issues of Echoes, along with numerous miscellaneous reports to assist me in gaining knowledge of where we came from and where we are currently, but more importantly, help me understand where the 306th BGHA is going. I want to leverage my experience to contribute by assisting our association in remaining strong and forward-thinking. I am so inspired by the current members of the board as well as those who support the association with special projects that the selfless energy they have invested makes me want to do more. I embrace this opportunity to serve you.

President Steve Snyder called the 306th BGHA Board of Directors meeting to order on Sunday, April 27. The primary discussion topic focused on our current website. Garrett Jaxson, who owns a website development company, presented the company's capabilities with an overview of the process and associated costs. The board is focused on updating and improving the existing site to deliver a user-friendly experience that is visually stimulating, easy to navigate, and mobile-friendly. Your board has been diligently working on exploring options to make this improvement and is close to making a decision. As you can imagine, this effort requires the board to evaluate our current site thoroughly. This initial assessment is the first step. It is like laying the groundwork for a successful renovation; it helps identify what works well or needs improvement. We have also received feedback on what can be improved, and we appreciate hearing this information. The next step is the planning phase; this is about setting clear and achievable goals and objectives to guide the update process. As I noted above, the user experience is the top priority; we want to refresh the overall page with the intent to increase traffic to our site. During this planning phase, we evaluate the budget and potential launch timeline.

As you can understand, a significant amount of data is currently archived on our existing platform, which will require the most critical investment of time and capital. Updating the content of our website is as crucial as revamping the design. Content engages our audience, the membership, and guests on our page. Cliff Deets, our Historian, has done a fantastic job entering data for all of us to access. Rarely does a day go by that a descendant of one of our heroes is looking for anything about their father, grandfather, or uncle. This is a massive benefit for all of us, and what a special resource we have! Remember, we are all very visual; if our website looks

obsolete, it can give the impression that our site is not efficient or up to date. Updating the website design and content shows that our association is active, engaged, and focused on providing a positive user experience.

Additionally, among other important topics discussed in this meeting was our Folded Wings initiative. As previously shared, we will display these scrolls at the Colorado Springs reunion in October. In addition to the scrolls, we are working towards having this Honor Roll accessible to everyone within our website with a dedicated tab to access in the very near future.

As a reminder, the 306th Bomb Group Reunion, combined with the 51st Annual 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion, is almost here. The dates are October 1 through October 5 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. What an excellent opportunity to bring everyone together with an exciting itinerary, with tours planned for the US Air Force Academy, the National Museum of World War II Aviation, and some fantastic speakers. Your 306th BGHA board members are looking forward to seeing you there.

Another topic you would find interesting is that the Normandy Institute will dedicate a D-Day statue on June 6, 2025, the 81st anniversary of the Normandy landings. The dedication ceremony will occur at the Normandy American Cemetery and is open to the public. The 306th BG 423rd squadron Medal of Honor recipient Maynard "Snuffy" Smith was selected to represent all enlisted men who served in World War II for this memorial statue. Association President, Steve Snyder, will be attending this ceremony.

In closing, please know we need your assistance to share the stories of our heroes, help us connect with friends and family members that you feel would be interested. Let's get them engaged with our mailing list, our newsletter *Echoes*, and visit our website and social media pages on Facebook and Instagram. If you have any ideas on how we can continue to grow the association, or questions in general about the association, I welcome your feedback and input, and invite you to feel free to email me at roskovich@att.net. ■



2025 Reunion Set for Colorado Springs

(continued from page 1)

indicates prehistoric people visited the area about 1330 BC, and in 250 BC, Native American people camped in the park. It is believed they were attracted to the plant and wildlife in the area and used overhangs created by the rocks for shelter.

The name “Garden of the Gods” originated with two surveyors who helped found Colorado City. One of the surveyors, Melancthon S. Beach, suggested it would be a “capital place for a beer garden.” His companion, Rufas Cable, was awestruck by the impressive rock formations, exclaimed, “Beer garden! It is a fit place for the Gods to assemble. We will call it the ‘Garden of the Gods.’” Another story assigns the naming of the area to Helen Hunt Jackson, who, in the early days of the settlement was attracted to a beautifully kept garden in which two negro servants, a man and a woman, were working. The man informed Mrs. Hunt that his name was Jupiter and the woman’s name was Juno, to which Mrs. Hunt exclaimed, “Then this must be the Garden of the Gods.”

In 1879, Charles Elliot Perkins acquired 480 acres of land, including a portion of the present-day Garden of the Gods. Upon Perkins death, his family gave the land to the City of Colorado Springs with the provision, “where it shall remain free to the public, where no intoxicating liquors shall be manufactured, sold, or dispensed, where no building or structure shall be erected except those necessary to properly care for, protect, and maintain the area as a public park.”

Regardless of the origin of the area’s name, visitors will enjoy a plethora of geological and ecological rarities that make the park an attraction that should not be missed.



Thursday night’s dinner guest speaker is General Gregory M. Guillot, Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado.

USNORTHCOM conducts homeland defense, civil support, and security

cooperation to defend and secure the United States and its interests. NORAD conducts aerospace warnings,

aerospace control, and maritime warnings in the defense of North America.

General Guillot received his commission in 1989 from the US Air Force Academy. He also holds a Master’s in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the National War College. He has commanded a flying squadron, an operations group, and two flying wings.

Colorado Springs’ military presence began during World War II when what is now Fort Carson was established in 1941. During the war, the United States Army Air Forces leased land adjacent to the municipal airfield, naming it Peterson Field. Deactivated at the end of the war, Peterson Field was reopened in 1951 as a US Air Force Base. During the Cold War, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) was established as a command and control center.



Colorado Springs is recognized as the home of the United States Air Force Academy. It is the youngest of the five service academies, graduating its first class in 1959. Graduates of the Academy’s four-year program receive a Bachelor of Science degree. They are commissioned as second lieutenants in the US Air Force or the US Space Force.

The Air Force Academy was established in 1954 after air power advocates pushed for its formation. Designed to complement the US Military Academy and the Naval Academy, the backbone of the Army and Navy, the Air Force Academy would be the backbone of the Air Service. It was General Billy Mitchell who testified to the necessity of the Air Force Academy when, in a speech given on Capitol Hill he said it was important “to have an air academy to form a basis for the permanent backbone of your air service and to attend to the organizational part of it, very much the same way that West Point does for the Army, or that Annapolis does for the Navy.” However,

early Air Force Academy leaders did look to West Point and Annapolis when designing appropriate curriculum, faculty, and campus plans. The first class of 306 cadets graduated in the Class of 1959.

In developing a distinctive uniform for the cadets, the Air Force consulted with Hollywood. Film director Cecil B. DeMille designed the cadet parade uniform that is still in use today.

The Class of 1959 established many vital traditions, including the Cadet Honor Code and adopting the falcon as the Academy's mascot.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed legislation permitting women to enter the United States service academies. In June 1976, 157 women entered the Air Force Academy as the Class of 1980.

Of special note to the 306th BGHA, all flying programs are run by the 306th Flying Training Group, which reports to the Air Education and Training Command, ensuring uniformity of flight training with the rest of the Air Force.



On Friday, the entire reunion contingent will have the opportunity to spend the day at the Air Force Academy.

At the Barry Goldwater Visitor Center, visitors can explore the Academy's rich history and learn what it takes to be a cadet. From a mock cadet dorm room to the history of the Cadet Chapel, the exhibits document the four areas of the cadet training program: character development, and academic, athletic, and military training.

The Cadet Chapel is currently closed for repairs and is encased inside an enormous box to allow construction crews to work year-round. The Chapel was originally constructed in 1962 and features 17 spires that shoot 150 feet into the sky. Designated as a National Historic Landmark, it is the most visited man-made tourist attraction in Colorado. It is an all-faith center of worship that serves the diverse spiritual needs of cadets in the Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist chapels and worship areas for

smaller religious groups.

Other attractions include the Honor Court, which lies directly adjacent to the Academy's main administrative building, Harmon Hall. It houses the office of the Superintendent. It displays an impressive array of historical statues and sculptures gifted to the Air Force Academy, including the Tuskegee Airman Memorial sculpture and the World War II Women Air Force Service Pilots. The Harmon Memorial honors the Academy's first superintendent, Lieutenant General Hubert R. Harmon.

Arnold Hall is the cadet social center and houses a newly renovated 3,000-seat theater and several lounge and recreational facilities for cadets and visitors. Displays include those featuring the Tuskegee Airmen, Women in Leadership, and cadets who have become astronauts.



Friday night's dinner, known as the Rendezvous Dinner, is an opportunity for each of the reunion attending bomb groups to meet as their association. The 306th BGHA dinner meeting will include a presentation by Colonel Nancy E. Taylor.

Colonel Taylor is the Commander of the 306th Flying Training Group, 12th Flying Training Wing, at the United States Air Force Academy. The 306th Flying Training Group provides soaring, parachuting, and powered flight as character-building operations focused on enhancing the airmanship and leadership of USAFA and Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets. The group also provides flight training for all Air Force officers scheduled to enter Pilot, Combat Systems Operator, and Remotely Piloted Aircraft training. On an annual basis, the 306th Flying Training Group trains more than 4,000 cadets and officers while operating the USAF's busiest visual flight rules airfield, which is operated only during daylight hours.

Colonel Taylor received her commission in 2001 after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy. She completed Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training in 2002 and has held various key leadership positions at the squadron and group levels.

Saturday's excursion is a visit to the National Museum of World War II Aviation. The museum had its origins in Rialto, California, but with the closure of

that airport, the owners of the museum's collection needed to find a new location to display the artifacts. The owners were persuaded to move the collection to a 3-hanger complex at the Colorado Springs airport.



Opened to the public in 2012, the National Museum of World War II Aviation documents the role that military aviation played in the emergence of the nation as a world power. The museum tells the story of the tremendous technological advancements in aviation during the war and the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who won the air war.

The aircraft collection at the museum features 28 fully restored flying aircraft and several ongoing restoration projects.



The museum also houses an extensive collection of more than 4,000 artifacts and historical documents from that time.

The museum offers a balanced mix of artifacts, archival material, interpretive narratives, maps, and audio-visual systems, all intertwined with the museum's collection of flying World War II-era aircraft.

In the museum's first section, visitors learn about the events leading up to America's involvement in

World War II and how they affected the aviation industry in its infancy. Visitors then explore galleries that tell the story of America's early involvement in the European and Pacific War theaters and the lessons learned by those fighting on the front lines. Finally, visitors discover how those costly but vital lessons guided the effort on the Homefront to design, develop, and produce the aircraft that ultimately won the War.



The Saturday night Gala dinner will feature guest speaker General Stephen N. Whiting.

General Whiting is the Commander of the US Space Command, headquartered at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado.

As Commander, General Whiting is

responsible for defending US and allied interests in the space domain while providing space-enabled combat effects to joint warfighters around the globe. He exercises combatant command authority over Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and Guardians operating ground and space-based systems worldwide.

General Whiting is a 1989 distinguished US Air Force Academy graduate with a degree in aeronautical engineering. He is a space operations officer and has commanded multiple wings and operations centers.

As the reunion festivities draw to a close on Saturday evening and people prepare to return home, they are invited to mark their calendars for the next reunion in Savannah, GA and the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, October 14 – 18. ■



51st Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

50th Anniversary of the Founding of the 8th AFHS

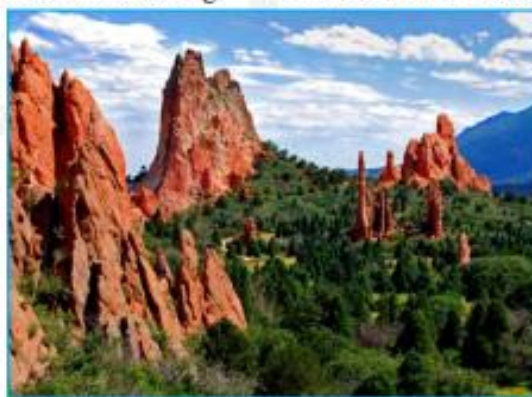
Colorado Springs, CO

October 1-5, 2025

In 1859, Colorado Springs history is marked with the founding of Colorado City, which became the first settlement in the Pikes Peak region. It was the territorial capital for a short period and served as a supply camp for miners traveling to the mining camps west of Denver.

In November 1806, American explorer Zebulon Pike traveled through the area and is credited for "discovering" Pikes Peak. He and his group attempted to reach the summit, but they were neither dressed nor equipped to climb the mountain that ultimately came to bear his name.

General William Jackson Palmer, a Civil War hero from Pennsylvania, ushered in a new era in Colorado Springs history in 1869. During his first visit to the area, he fell in love with its "most enticing scenery." He predicted that there would soon be a great resort town at the base of Pikes Peak. One year later, he founded the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and purchased land to create Colorado Springs along its route.



In 1871, the Victorian spa resort town Palmer envisioned became a reality. We invite you to enjoy the incredible beauty of the Rockies "close up and personal" with our first tour offering: **Foothills & Garden of the Gods Jeep Tour.**

Enjoy Cheyenne Canyon with Helen Hunt Falls, God Camp Road with the historic train tunnels, and the entire Garden of the Gods Park—all

while traveling in specially modified Jeeps with your personal driver/guide! Snacks and bottled water are included as well as an experi-



ence you will NEVER forget!

Note: This tour is offered either as a "morning tour" (Group A) or if you prefer, an "afternoon tour" (Group B). Seating is limited to the first 100 per tour departure time.

"Group A" Jeep Foothills and Garden of the Gods Tour
Thursday, October 2, 2025. Jeeps load at **9:00am**. Arrive back at DoubleTree at 12:14pm.

"Group B" Jeep Foothills and Garden of the Gods Tour
Thursday, October 2, 2025. Jeeps load at **1:00pm**. Arrive back at DoubleTree at 4:15pm.



Be sure to have your cameras ready for this incredible tour.

The United States Air Force Academy

The U.S Air Force Academy was established April 1, 1954, the culmination of an idea years in the making. Airpower leaders, long before the Air Force was a separate service, argued that they needed a school dedicated to war in the air, to train Airmen. After September 1947, when the Air Force was established as a separate service, this idea finally had the legitimacy of the new service behind it.

In 1948, the Air Force appointed a board, later named the Stearns-Eisenhower Board for its chairmen, to study existing military acad-

mies and the options for an Air Force academy. Their conclusions were strongly put: the Air Force needed its own school; they additionally recommended at least 40

percent of future officers be service academy graduates.

After Congress passed a bill establishing the Air Force Academy, the secretary of the Air Force appointed a commission to recommend a location.

After traveling 21,000 miles

and considering hundreds of sites, the commission recommended Colorado Springs as its first choice. The secretary agreed and the purchasing of the thousands of acres began. The state of Colorado contributed \$1 million to the purchase of the land.

On July 11, 1955, the same year construction on the Academy began in Colorado Springs, the first class of 306 men was sworn-in at a temporary site, Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. Lieutenant Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, a key figure in the development of early plans for an Academy, was recalled from retirement by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to become the first Academy superintendent.

Two years later, Maj. Gen. James Briggs took over as the Academy's second superintendent. On Aug. 29, 1958, 1,145 cadets moved to the Academy's permanent site from Denver. Less than a year later, the Academy received academic

accreditation and graduated its first class of 207 June 3, 1959. In 1964, the authorized strength of the Cadet Wing increased to 4,417. The present authorized strength is approximately 4,000.

Friday, October 3, 2025
Busses board at 9:30am
Arrive back at DoubleTree at 3:00pm

No visit to "The Springs" is complete unless it includes a tour of the United States Air Force Academy.

Our visit encompasses the splendor of the Chapel (unfortunately, due to ongoing renovations, we will be unable to go inside); the Barry Goldwater Visitor Center, B-52 display, Honor Court, Doolittle Hall, and more!

Lunch and a program at the Falcon Club is included in this package!



You won't want to miss this soul stirring experience.

National Museum of WWII Aviation

Opened to the public in 2012, the National Museum of World War II Aviation documents the role that

military aviation played in the emergence of our nation as a world power. The museum tells the story of the tremendous technological advancements in aviation during the War and the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who won the air war.

The museum offers a balanced mix of artifacts, archival material, interpretive narratives, maps and audio-visual systems; all intertwined with the museum's collection of flying World War II-era aircraft.

Saturday, October 4, 2025 Busses board at 12:00pm
Arrive back at DoubleTree at 3:30pm

In the first section of the museum, visitors learn about the events leading up to America's involvement in

World War II and how those events affected an aviation industry in its infancy. Visitors then explore galleries that tell the story of America's early involvement in the European and Pacific theaters of war,

and the lessons learned by those fighting on the front lines. Finally, visitors discover how those costly but vital lessons guided the effort on the Homefront to design, develop and produce the aircraft that ultimately won the war.

While our tour is "self-guided", there will be numerous docents throughout the museum adding additional information as well as making our experience unique.

Note: You may want to eat lunch BEFORE this tour as the Museum does NOT have onsite food service.



51st Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

50th Anniversary ~ Founding of the 8th AFHS

DoubleTree by Hilton ~ Colorado Springs, CO

October 1-5, 2025

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

STOP! WE'VE ADDED AN OPTION!!!

✓RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM FIRST!

The reunion hotel has a liberal cancellation policy—in the event you are unable to attend the reunion, you will be able to cancel your reservation without penalty within 72 hours of your scheduled check-in time. However, if you wait until the last minute to book your room reservation, you may not receive the reunion rate or rooms may no longer be available at the reunion hotel or at our designated overflow hotels.

Canceling your hotel reservation does **NOT** cancel your reunion activities.

✓COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out the registration form completely.

- ⇒ Fill out your name as you wish it to be on your name tag—and for up to 3 guests registering with you. ONE address per registration form, PLEASE! The principle attendee MUST be a current member of the Society to register for the reunion. You may JOIN and/or RENEW directly on the registration form. If you are a veteran, and/or affiliated with a bomb or fighter group, please indicate which group.
- ⇒ ALL meals are priced separately. Please note: Breakfast is on your own! Be sure and select your choice of entrée if you plan on attending the Saturday evening gala. Also, please note any dietary restrictions.
- ⇒ There are three [3] tour options available during the reunion. Please read the information [here in this issue] on each tour and then make your selection on the form. **Tours have limited seating and are filled on a first come, first available basis.**

Once you have completed your registration form, please total up the amount owed and include a check, money order, or credit card information on the form, payable to the **8th AFHS** and mail to:

✓MAIL IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM

8th AFHS
68 Kimberlys Way
Jasper, GA 30143-4769

~OR~

✓NEW REGISTER DIRECTLY ON OUR WEBSITE!

[a 3% convenience fee will be added]

ALL registration forms **MUST** be received by **September 1, 2025**, in order to guarantee your place. If you have any questions or problems in completing your registration, please contact:

Debra Kujawa
Managing Director
8th AFHS
912-748-8884

ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org

ALL reunion information and forms are available on our website: 8thAFHS.org



51st Annual 8th AFHS REUNION
50th Anniversary ~ Founding of the 8th AFHS
DoubleTree by Hilton ~ Colorado Springs, CO
October 1-5, 2025

DoubleTree Hotel
(Reunion Hotel)

Reservations: (719) 527-4693
Kaitlyn: Mon-Fri 8am – 4pm MST
Group rate code: AFH

Link below for DoubleTree reservations!
[DOUBLETREE Reservations](https://www.doubletree.com/reservations)

Or on our website: www.8thafhs.org

—>OVERFLOW HOTELS<—

Fairfield Inn & Suites

(719) 576-1717

and/or

Courtyard Colorado Springs South

(719) 226-5006

Code: AF Historical Society

Link below for either hotel above!

[OVERFLOW RESERVATION LINK](https://www.8thafhs.org/overflow-reservation-link)

Or on our website: www.8thafhs.org

The DoubleTree Hotel is located at 1775 E Cheyenne Mountain Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906. Just minutes from Downtown Colorado Springs, the hotel is a gateway to top attractions like the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum and the breathtaking vistas of Pikes Peak. Enjoy easy access to over 15 restaurants, a multi-plex movie theater, and shopping nearby. We offer 30,000 square feet of meeting space, on-site dining, and an indoor pool! *Airport shuttle: please call (719)576-8900 upon landing to check on availability.*

Because we are anticipating a large turnout for this reunion, we have arranged for two additional hotels as backup:

Fairfield Inn & Suites is located within easy walking distance of the DoubleTree, at 2725 Geyser Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80906. Offers easy access to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Broadmoor World Arena, Pikes Peak, Fort Carson, Garden of the Gods, and Cave of the Winds Mountain Park.

Courtyard Colorado Springs South, 2570 Tenderfoot Hill Street Colorado Springs, CO 80906. Also has easy access to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, World Arena, Seven Falls, Fort Carson, Garden of the Gods, Cave of the Winds, and Peterson AFB.

ALL three (3) hotels offer complimentary parking and are within 15 minutes of the Colorado Springs Airport [COS].

RESERVATION INFORMATION

DoubleTree Hotel

Group Name: 8th Air Force Historical Society

Reunion Dates: October 1-5, 2025

Rate: \$189.00 + 10.27% = \$208.28 per night. Rates are offered 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion based on availability.

Fairfield Inn & Suites: \$139++ per night. Rates based on availability.

Courtyard Colorado Springs South: \$159++ per night. Rates based on availability.

Cut off Date: August 30, 2025

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

WHEELCHAIR/SCOOTERS/WALKERS RENTALS

ScoutAround: (888) 441-7575 or ScoutAround.com

Reserve chair rentals early!

HOSPITALITY SUITES

HOSPITALITY SUITES are very limited and will be offered to groups on a first come, first reserved basis. We ask that you reserve your suite as soon as possible and consider sharing with another group! Suites are located throughout the hotel, but we will post location information at the registration desk as to where each group is located!

PLEASE contact Debra to reserve your suite!

Call or email ASAP:

Debra Kujawa
Managing Director
912-748-8884

ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org



REUNION SCHEDULE

51st Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

50th Anniversary ~ Founding of the 8th AFHS

DoubleTree by Hilton ~ Colorado Springs, CO

October 1-5, 2025

Wednesday, October 1

10:00am — 5:00pm	Reunion Registration open***	Academy—Hallway adjacent
5:30pm — 7:00pm	Welcome Reception & Cash Bar	Colorado Springs Ballroom
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Board Meeting	Red Rocks Boardroom
7:00pm — until	Hospitality Suites	Locations TBD

Thursday, October 2

7:00am — 8:30am	Breakfast on your own**	
8:30am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration***	Academy—Hallway adjacent
1:00pm — 5:00pm	Reunion Registration***	Academy—Hallway adjacent
9:15am — 12:15pm	Garden of the Gods "Jeep Tour" Group 'A' ~Assemble in hotel lobby	
1:15pm — 4:15pm	Garden of the Gods "Jeep Tour" Group 'B' ~Assemble in hotel lobby	
6:00pm — 10:00pm	Cash Bar Open	Colorado Springs Ballroom
7:00pm — 9:30pm	Dinner and program	Colorado Springs Ballroom
Speaker ~ General Gregory M. Guillot, Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado		

Friday, October 3

7:00am — 8:30am	Breakfast on your own**	
7:45am — 8:45am	Group Meetings	Locations vary by groups
8:30am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration***	Academy—Hallway adjacent
1:30pm — 5:00pm	Reunion Registration***	Academy—Hallway adjacent
9:45am — 3:00pm	U S Air Force Academy Tour & Lunch	~Assemble in hotel lobby
6:00pm — 10:00pm	Cash Bar Open	
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Rendezvous Dinners	Colorado Springs Ballroom (5 rooms)

Saturday, October 4

7:00am — 8:30am	Breakfast on your own**	
8:30am — 5:00pm	Reunion Registration Self-serve	Academy—Hallway adjacent
8:45am — 10:30am	General Membership Meeting	Colorado Springs Ballroom
10:30am — 1:30pm	8th AFHS Board Meeting	Red Rocks Boardroom
12:15pm — 3:30pm	National Museum of WWII Aviation*	~Assemble in hotel lobby
6:00pm — 10:00pm	Cash Bar Open	
7:00pm — 10:00pm	Gala Dinner and Program	Colorado Springs Ballroom
Speaker ~ General Stephen N. Whiting, Commander, US Space Command, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado		

Sunday, October 5

7:00am — 8:30am	Breakfast on your own**
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*The National Museum of WWII Aviation is self-guided!

**Breakfast is NOT included in our reunion package...please check times with hotel and/or surrounding restaurants.

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



51st Annual 8th AFHS REUNION
50th Anniversary ~ Founding of the 8th AFHS
DoubleTree by Hilton ~ Colorado Springs, CO October 1-5, 2025

CUT-OFF DATE IS August 30, 2025		Price p/p	# of People	TOTAL
DUES: The principal attendee MUST be a member of the 8th AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are NOT CURRENT or a member, please pay your yearly dues here:		\$ 60	#	\$
REGISTRATION FEE (non-refundable): EVERY attendee MUST pay registration fee		\$ 45	#	\$
DINNERS				
Thursday, Oct 2 — 7:00 PM~EVENING DINNER: Tuscan Chicken with Creamy Sundried Tomatoes, Mushroom, and Parmesan Sauce		\$ 63	#	\$
Friday, Oct 3—7:00 PM~RENDEZVOUS DINNER: Garlic Herb Roasted Chicken with Wild Mushrooms, Rosemary, and Chicken Jus		\$ 63	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 19—7:00 PM~GALA BANQUET: <i>(Please select ONE entrée per person)</i>				
Grilled Ribeye with Crispy Shallots and Red Wine Aus Jus		\$ 75	#	\$
Almond Crusted Sole with Sauce Meuniere		\$ 75	#	\$
Vegetarian plate(s) Please indicate [how many]: Thurs # ____ Fri # ____ Sat # ____		\$ 63	#	\$
TOUR OPTIONS				
Thursday, Oct 2: 9:15 AM—12:15 PM: Foothills & Garden of the Gods Jeep Tour MORNING TOUR (Includes bottled water & snacks!) Limit: 100 passengers		\$ 113	#	\$
Thursday, Oct 2: 1:15 PM—4:15 PM: Foothills & Garden of the Gods Jeep Tour AFTERNOON TOUR (Includes bottled water & snacks!) Limit: 100 passengers		\$ 113	#	
Friday, Oct 3: 9:45 AM — 3:00 PM: US Air Force Academy <i>(Includes lunch!)</i>		\$ 60	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 4: 12:15 AM — 3:30 PM: National Museum of World War II Aviation <i>(Self-guided — Lunch on your own!)</i>		\$ 55	#	\$
Total amount payable to: 8th AFHS				\$

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

MEMBER NAME: _____ BG/FG (for name tag & seating): **351st BG**

VETERAN? If yes—> WWII: _____ Post WWII: _____ (Conflict or Era): _____ (Branch of Service): _____

Additional Attendee: _____ Military service: _____

Name #3: _____ Military service: _____

Name #4: _____ Military service: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PH #: _____ EMAIL: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PH #: _____

ANY PHYSICAL (*Wheelchair or hydraulic lift needed for tours?*) OR DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _____

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD — M/C; VISA; or AmEx (a 3% convenience fee will be added):

CARD #: _____ CVV: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ *Your contact information will only be shared with attendees.*

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

If paying by credit card, you may [register DIRECTLY on our website](#)

From the Editor



Honoring V-E Day

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

How many of you took the time to post the United States flag at your residence on May 8, 2025? Every year, when that date appears on the calendar, there may be a brief news clip on television featuring a World War II veteran sharing his story of "Where were you on V-E Day?" But this year, recognizing V-E Day – Victory in Europe Day – had a slightly different connotation. After all, this was the 80th anniversary of the Allied Powers' triumph over Nazi aggression, effectively marking the end of World War II in Europe.

But 1945 was a long time ago. Is there a reason we still pause to mark the occasion? Should we not just let the occasion fade into history? Absolutely not! It is vitally important that we preserve the stories of those brave individuals who served their country, both as soldiers and civilians, during this tumultuous period in history, which gave us the freedoms we enjoy today.

In a website article (www.thesecondworldwar.org) entitled "Why V-E Day Still Speakes to Us in 2025," the author makes some all-too-true observances that warrant thoughtful consideration. What follows is an excerpt from the article:

In Europe, May 8, 1945, was a turning point – the beginning of the end. For those who lived through it, V-E Day meant everything. And although fewer of them are with us now, their memories, photographs, and handwritten letters still speak volumes.

The Second World War was not just battles and politics. It was personal. It was kids being evacuated from cities, families trying to keep things normal during the Blitz, and young people signing up and heading off to fight with no guarantee they would return. V-E Day is a way of acknowledging all of that – not just the victory but the sheer human cost behind it.

One of the challenges of commemorating V-E Day in 2025 is that there are very few veterans left alive.

As time goes on, living memory becomes family memory. Grandparents pass stories down. And yet, there is something powerful about sharing those stories – about marking V-E Day not because we were there but because someone was. For many people, there is still a personal connection. A family member who was at Omaha Beach on D-Day, a relative who was a battlefield nurse, a relative who never came home. . . . These are not just names in a textbook – they are part of who we are. When we commemorate V-E Day, we are not just remembering history. We are remembering the people in our stories who lived through something extraordinary.

There is also the human side. Some of the best stories come from the most ordinary people. These stories are scattered across the country – in attics, in photo albums, at dinner conversations. V-E Day is a good excuse to dig some of those out.

What is nice about V-E Day is that it is not linked to a particular religion, political party, or social group.

It belongs to all of us. ■

Why the Poppy for Memorial Day?

In the United States, the red poppy is worn on Memorial Day to remember soldiers who have given their lives for their country and honor their dedication and sacrifice.

It was a poem written by World War I Colonel John McCrae, a surgeon with Canada's First Brigade Artillery who, in the Spring of 1915, saw bright red poppies blooming on the war-torn fields where so many soldiers had lost their lives. So moved by what he saw, McCrae expressed his grief over the "row on row" of graves of soldiers who had died on Flanders' battlefields, located in a region of western Belgium and northern France. The poem presented a striking image of bright red flowers blooming among the rows of white crosses and became a rallying cry to all who fought in World War I.

The poem was published in a London magazine and later syndicated to publications in other allied countries, where it was seen by two women who would go on to play a role in making the poppy a symbol of Memorial Day. Anna E. Guerin of France and Georgia native Molina Michael worked hard to initiate the sale of artificial poppies to help orphans

and others left destitute by the war. By the time Guerin established the first sale in the United States in 1920, with the help of the American Legion, the poppy was well-known in the allied countries as the “Flower of Remembrance.”

Guerin had difficulty distributing the poppies in early 1922 and sought out Michael for help. Michael had started a smaller-scale Poppy Day during a YMCA conference she was attending in New York, and she wanted to use the poppies as a symbol of remembrance for the war. Guerin, and Michael turned to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for assistance. Following its first nationwide distribution of poppies, the VFW adopted the poppy as its official memorial flower in 1922.

However, a shortage of poppies from French manufacturers led to the idea of using unemployed and disabled veterans to produce artificial flowers. In 1924, a poppy factory was built in Pittsburg, PA, providing a reliable source of poppies and a practical means of assistance to veterans. Today, veterans at VA medical facilities and veteran homes help assemble the poppies, which are distributed by veterans’ service organizations throughout the country.

Donations received in return for these artificial poppies have helped countless veterans and their widows, widowers, and orphans over the years. The poppy itself continues to serve as a perpetual tribute to those who have given their lives for the nation’s freedom. ■

In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae

*In Flanders fields the poppies flow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

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.

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

Articles relative to World War II, the 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
25 October 2025**

V-E Day 80th Anniversary Marked in UK



May 8 marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe, commonly referred to as V-E Day. The day celebrates the formal acceptance by the Allies of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces, ceasing all military operations and effectively ending World War II in Europe. It is a day to remember the sacrifices made during the war. In Europe, it meant an end to nearly six years of war that had cost the lives of millions, had destroyed homes, families, cities, and businesses, and had brought immense suffering to the population of entire countries. Millions of people rejoiced at the news that Germany had surrendered, relieved that the intense strain of total war was finally over.



In both the United States and Britain, the 80th anniversary is not only a tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our countries ever since.

When acknowledging the signing of the surrender, President Harry Truman said, “Our rejoicing is sobered and subdued by a supreme consciousness of

the terrible price we have paid to rid the world of Hitler and his evil band. Let us not forget, my fellow Americans, the sorrow and the heartache which today abide in the home of so many of our neighbors – neighbors whose most priceless possession has been rendered as a sacrifice to redeem our liberty.”

To mark the anniversary of this momentous occasion, our British friends held a week-long celebration that featured speeches, memorial events, military processions, street parties, barbecues, concerts, and community events. The Royal Family attended events commemorating the 80th Anniversary of V-E Day, including a military parade and a fly-past of the Royal Air Force's Red Arrows display team that streaked across the sky, leaving trails of red, white, and blue smoke.



King Charles delivered a heartfelt message, calling for global peace.

In London, the commemoration began on Monday when Big Ben struck at midday, and extracts from Winston Churchill's V-E Day speech were recited, in which Churchill is quoted as saying, “My friends, this is your hour.”



On Tuesday, 30,000 ceramic poppies were installed at the Tower of London to remember those killed during the conflict.

The V-E Day observance on Thursday began with the reenactment of a historic walk from Parliament to the Abbey that took place on the day victory in Europe was declared in 1945. A Service of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, carefully orchestrated to ensure every detail was attended to, included hymns that echoed observances held 80 years ago in celebration. The service included a national two-minute silence at midday, which was observed across the country, followed by the laying of a wreath at the memorial for an unknown warrior by King Charles and Prince William.



Churchill's great-great-grandson, 10-year-old Alexander Churchill, lit a candle for peace and invited people to "pray for peace in Europe and across the world."



Historians recalled that as the news of the surrender was announced, the late Queen Elizabeth and her sister, Princess Margaret, slipped out of Buckingham Palace to join the revelers.



At Station III in Thurleigh, museum docents posted a banner honoring the date, and poppies were added to the memorials inside the 306th Bombardment Museum. Although the day was wet and windy with intermittent sunshine, wreaths were laid at the monument in the museum's garden.



Echoing similar sentiments expressed by World War II historians in the United States, King Charles voiced concern that as the wartime generation diminishes, the duty falls on the public to carry the stories forward of veterans and those who lived under the shadow of warfare. As with every passing anniversary, the number of living veterans dwindles, and by the time the 90th anniversary of V-E Day arrives, there will likely be no veterans left alive to share their first-hand memories. Although memories of that day may be fading, the significance of the day endures. By engaging with our history, participating in commemoration, and encouraging individuals to share their families' wartime stories, we honor those who fought for freedom and ensure their legacy continues to inspire future generations. ■

Memorial Day Events Held in UK and US

The Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial in Cambridge, England, paid tribute to the men and women whose names appear on the Wall of the Missing or are laid to rest in the cemetery grounds during a Memorial Day ceremony in which the fallen heroes were remembered and their legacy honored.

Representatives from the 306th Bombardment Group Museum laid a wreath at the Wall of the Missing, remembering those who served and died at Station III, Thurleigh. Pictured from left to right are Lisa and Peter Worby, Mark Fussell, Lynda Clugston, and Philip Barrington.



As part of the solemn celebration, those gathered were honored with a fly-past of *Sally B*, the last remaining B-17 flying in Europe.

At the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, GA, the 26,000 airmen of the Eighth Air Force in World War II who never returned home were honored in the museum's memorial garden where 48-star American flags stand, row upon row, as testament to each Eighth Air Force airman lost in aerial combat in the European theater of the war. [The men of the Eighth in World War II served, and many are buried under this flag.]



The Memorial Day event, Flags for the Fallen, began in 2021, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the museum's opening. The display was intended to make the sacrifice of the Mighty Eighth more tangible, allowing viewers to grasp the enormity of the number of lives lost through a visual display. The flags are posted "one foot apart, dress right dress, in rows." Eighth Air Force personnel, renowned for their bravery during World War II, played a crucial role in securing the Allied victory. Remembering is not just about looking back – it is about honoring the future those airmen gave everything to protect.



The 306th Bomb Group Historical Association proudly continues to support the annual memorial events at the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial by making the wreath available and the Flags for the Fallen at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum with a monetary contribution. ■

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.*

Bocian, Roland J, waist gunner (423rd/368th, Joe Marsh crew) passed away December 31, 2024, in Toledo, OH, at age 99. After the War, he first worked for the City of Toledo Parks Division before joining the Toledo Fire Department, retiring as a Lieutenant after thirty-three years of service. He was a Post Commander and lifetime member of the VFW. He is survived by his daughters Laura Kuhlman and Karen Williams, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Lempenau, Virgil, 1208th QM Company, passed away 22 May 2025, in St. Paul KS at 101 years of age. He graduated from Baker University in Kansas; he also attended Wheaton College. He entered the ministry and served as a pastor at United Chapel Church, Girard Bible Church, and Kimball Bible Church. He was also a teacher in various school districts in Prescott, Kansas. Surviving are sons Michael and Dan, daughters Libby and Becky, eight grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.



Given In Memory Of...



In memory of our good friend

Thurman Schuller

by William Culp

Frank Carle, 369th Pilot

by Virginal Carle

Robert L. Dodge, 368th Pilot

by William Zeigler

Willard O. "Buck" Elliot

369th Radio Operator/Gunner – POW

by Thomas Elliot

Robert Folk, 423rd Engineer

by Dick Folk

John R. Grimm, 367th

Armt/Supply/Chem W & B Officer

by John Grimm

John M. Howard, 369th Pilot

by Ralph Perry

David O. Howe, 423rd Navigator

by Lenelle Smith

Richard C. Huebotter, 368th WG - POW

by Nancy M. Huebotter

Ron Lissner, 367th Pilot

by Lance and Eiko Lissner

Frederick C. Morton, 368th Communications

by Steven Clark

In memory of the Ralstin/Jones 369th Crew

We shall never forget.

by Richard Jones

Victor Rose, 369th Ball Turret Gunner

by Victor Rose

Gerald Albert Weiler, 367th Navigator

by Kristen Weiler

Robert H. Wood, 369th Pilot

by Barbara Wood

*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 Smith, Treasurer, PO Box 17163, Boulder, CO 80308. All gifts made will be recognized in the twice-yearly publication of *Echoes*. Expenditure of these funds is at the direction of the Board of Directors.*



306th Bomb Group Historical Association Membership Registration Form 2025 Calendar Year

Print all information.

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Email: _____

Telephone _____

Address: (required if ordering *Echoes* print subscription) [Street Address] _____

[City, State, Zip Code] _____

WWII Vet or Spouse Yes _____

If you have an interest in a particular WWII 306th veteran, please 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: _____

Additional Information: _____

IF YOU ARE NOT of the WWII generation AND you want US-MAIL copies of *Echoes*, there is a \$20 per calendar year charge to cover cost of *Echoes* printing and mailing. Donations are also welcome.

Membership registration remains free.

☐ Check: Payable to 306th Bomb Group Historical Association; on memo line write "2025 *Echoes*." Please mail (with or without this form) your check to:

Sally Smith, Treasurer
PO BOX 17163
BOULDER, CO 80308

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Membership Registration forms should be mailed to:

Mr. Bruce Chase, Membership Chairman
2324 HATCH HILL RD
NEW ALBANY, PA 18833-8887

We ask that you submit your (free) membership renewal each calendar year to confirm your continued interest in the 306th BGHA and to verify your current phone number and email address.

A free electronic version of the 306th *Echoes*, our official publication, is available via www.306bg.us.

2026 Eighth Air Force Historical Society Reunion

Destination: Savannah, Georgia



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