

86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2006 NEWSLETTER

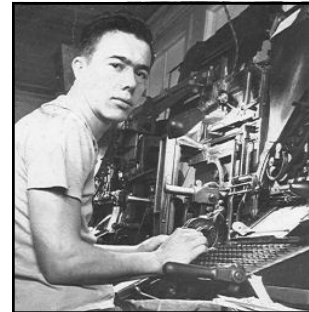
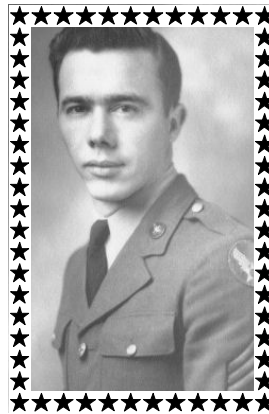


TIME MARCHES ON But You Are Not Forgotten

TRIBUTE TO ONE OF OUR OWN



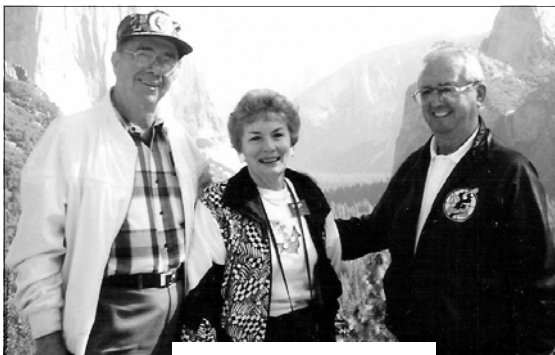
COLLEGE



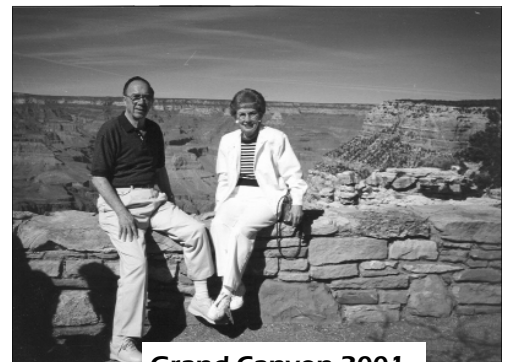
HIGH SCHOOL
LINOTYPE OPERATOR

This Newsletter is dedicated in loving memory to my, and everybody else's, friend, Gilbert T. HURT who joined the growing ranks of our departed comrades on November 5, 2005. (I have known Gil since we attended AM School at Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, 12/1941 to 4/1942.) Gil was one of the "founding fathers" of the Association. Having accepted my invitation to join the 527th Squadron attendees at our second reunion in Oklahoma City, OK in 1981, he and Sue brought with them other 525th members Richard and Elsie TERREBONNE (see Sad News Department) and the "Chippewa Chief" Charlie MOOSE.

They then went to work and, from that modest beginning, drew 90 of the 525th folks to our gathering in St. Louis the following year. Subsequently, in 1985, they hosted the Association's largest-ever attendance in Chattanooga, TN - 365 in number, of whom 155 were 525th members. Gil was elected, and re-elected, Squadron Secretary-Treasurer, serving in this capacity until ill health caused him to step down in 2000 when the three separate squadrons merged into one association. Gil and Sue attended 19 reunions, the last in Tucson, AZ in 2001.



Yosemite 1994



Grand Canyon 2001

86th Fighter-Bomber Group Association

NEWSLETTER

Editor – Sidney B. Howard
Publisher – Martha M. Plowden

Vol. XXVII, No. 1

February 2006

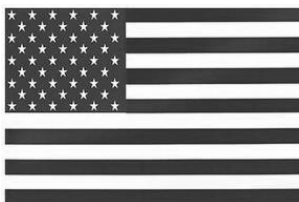
ELECTED OFFICERS — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Glen E. Margerum
2845 Belleza Lane, Henderson, NV 89074-2471
(702) 361-3143; Email: ww2ros@cox.net

Secretary-Treasurer

Sidney B. Howard
211 Brownstone Drive
La Habra, CA 90631-7397
(714) 992-2504
Email: whisperingsid@sbcglobal.net



Vice President

Audrey Brown
7229 Cleve Avenue E.
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076-4303
(651) 457-3086

Members-at-Large: Three-year term – Carl Baranek, Louis DeLuca, and Jesse Fitzpatrick

Two-year term – Audrey Brown, Sid Howard, Glen Margerum

One-year term – Don Collins, Ed Hill, and John Senneff

Website: www.86fighterbombergroup.com

JAYNE'S JOURNAL VS. HURT'S HUMOR

From Jayne's 11/30/88 Newsletter:

"It's a tight race between Howard and Hurt. They both grind out these fantastic Newsletters – lots of news – statistics – history – future events – all kinds of stuff. But if you force me to vote, I must vote for Howard. Why? Because Hurt writes like Jimmie Carter talked. Examples: HAR – a growth covering the skull, STOW – an establishment where goods are for sale, PIN – a writing instrument using ink, MILE – letters or items you get from the Post Office. I better stop this stuff or I'm off Hurt's mailing list."

Hurt's response followed in his 12/7/88 Newsletter:

"Bill Jayne made a very complimentary remark about my newsletters when he stated, 'Hurt writes like Jimmie Carter talked'. Some people think we write and talk funny down here. We write and talk like God talks. In fact, Jimmie Carter and Herman Talmadge probably talk more like God than anyone. Now I'll admit that we change some words a little bit – but for a very good reason. For example – You take the word naked. Sometimes we pronounce that "Nekkid." There's a reason for this. The word naked means, "You ain't got no clothes on." And the word "Nekkid" means, "You ain't got no clothes on and you're up to sumpum." The people in some parts of this country also change words a little bit. Again, you take the word "party." To us, that means a festive occasion where everyone has a good time. Some people change that word to "potty." Now a potty down here is a container – which our children do something in – and we think that is funny. Now take it away Bill Jayne – The Ball is in Your Court."

POTPOURRI

For the information of those not aware of the fact, the 86th Group has memorial plaques at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Field in Dayton, Ohio, and at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In addition, each of the three squadrons has a marble marker mounted on a bronze plaque at Key Field, Meridian, Mississippi, our departure point for overseas in 1943.

A December note from Earl BRADFORD (525) indicates he is still in "beautiful Bozeman, MT (16 inches of snow, minus 25 degrees and sunny)". He had the great pleasure of entertaining Ed FENNER (526) and his wife Bea recently, and they saw Yellowstone Park in great style.

For the second December in a row, I was on the recipient list of an 8-page epistle from Angie and Louie DeLUCA's youngest daughter, Susan. She and husband Danny live in Hancock, Texas near Galveston and both work for NASA, as well as being gentleman (and gentlewoman) farmers. Her masterfully written letter discussed all the joys and sorrows of animal raising and farming, to which she introduced us last year, but also described in vivid detail the events surrounding Katrina and Rita. After much concern initially, their place sustained minimal damage. Sister Louise, who lives with Angie and Louie in Lake Charles, LA, rode out the storm while her parents were attending our Minneapolis/St. Paul reunion. They sustained somewhat more damage to the property than the Hancock branch of the family, but were very fortunate compared to some in the area.

A November letter received from John HIPSAK (527) advises that he has had "a bad four years," including the necessity of putting Clara in a nursing home; however, he is hoping to attend our next reunion. John was one of 32 enlisted men transferred from the 48th Bombardment Group (L) as the cadre of the then 86th Bombardment Group (L) when it was constituted at Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City 02/10/42. (Fred BARENTINE and Ed BLACKETER were also members of the cadre.) John is also the surviving member of the ten members of the 527th to whom we are all indebted for getting this Association started in Washington, D.C. in 1980.

In an e-mail from David Rutherford, the son of Wayne R. "Fud" RUTHERFORD (525) who is included in our deceased listing, David furnished Wayne's date of death from stroke complications on 10/15/98. David's uncle was Albert R. FLEISCHMANN, Jr who was the 527th's first combat KIA on 7/10/43 while flying out of Cape Korba, Tunisia. David's godfather was Jack THORNTON, another 525 pilot, now deceased.

Are you one of those *fortunates* whose bank still returns your written checks with your monthly statement, instead of those itty-bitty photo copies of the front only? If you never look at the endorsement (back) side, I thought you might like to see what your Association's endorsement of your dues-payment/voluntary-contribution checks looks like:

UNION BANK OF CALIFORNIA
86th Ftr-Bomb Assoc.
201-0400492
WE THANK YOU FRIEND

I have changed Internet Service Providers from Juno to SBC Global. In the process I discovered that somebody else was using my email address*. Didn't think that was possible, but apparently there are more of us survivors of The Big One than anyone thought. My new address is

whisperingsid@sbcglobal.net

* A few years ago I received a message from a guy that read "Loved your address (ww2gfu@juno.com). Wish I had thought of it. I was a general too."

The essay below, from the last issue of the P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots Association newsletter (that has called it kaput), was sent to me by Bill COLGAN. In his footnote, the Editor of *The Jug* points out that this salute is well deserved and should be reprinted in every paper in America and read in every civic club. (Your Association just became a civic club!)

An Essay on World War II
By LTC William Brown (Ret.)
(Reprinted from the "Twenty-niner" Newsletter)

They walk a little slower these days, and the spring in their step is, for the most part, gone. Sometimes you have to speak louder when talking to them. Time has taken, and is taking, its toll on them. Their ranks grow thinner each day. They probably appear to you like any ordinary group of old people, mostly retirees now, sitting on porch swings, or in rocking chairs or wandering around malls. They're ordinary parents and grandparents in all respects save one. When they were young, they saved the world. No other generation in the history of the world can make that claim ... not the founders of the American Revolution, not the Ancient Greeks or the Romans, not the Baby Boomers, not even the early Christians.

Granted, other generations have had great struggles, and other times have faced very daunting challenges, but at best there were, here and there, saviors only of a town or a country, vanguards of unfulfilled promises, dreamers of visions.

America's WWII generation did not, as a group, achieve the heroism of Joan of Arc, nor is there any evidence their souls were "touched by fire" as the American Civil War experience was described by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. But, who would deny that the actions of that generation had a much more profound effect on our world?

Yet isn't it ironically fitting that victory in the most intense, deadly and important struggle in human history should seem sort of ordinary to those who won it and to those who benefited the most from it?

You see, America's WWII generation saved the world, not for glory or for honor, not for lasting tribute on the printed page, but simply because it had to be done. No one else was available to do it.

It isn't that the British or the French or the Chinese or the Russians or any other freedom-loving peoples in

the world didn't contribute mightily. They did. They suffered unutterably, severe hardship, death and destruction. And that is precisely the point. With most of Europe in chains, Asia teetering on the edge of collapse, the Pacific in flames and the incredibly brave British hanging on by their fingernails, it fell to the Americans to save the world from the unspeakable horror of global fascist domination.

And, who were those valiant warriors who secured the blessings of freedom and liberty for the world back in those dark days; Supermen; millions of Davids or King Richards or equally well-known historical figures? Hardly.

Certainly, that war had its share of legends. But legends don't win wars. Men and women win wars, ordinary people like my brother, two uncles and five cousins, people like your Uncle Rov; or maybe even your mother and father.

.....

We need to take a long, loving look at these people now, while we have the chance. If you know any, give them a hug and say "Thanks."

No individuals or groups have ever matched their achievements.

God Willing, no one will ever again have to.

.....

Editor's note: This is not really a message for you, but for today's generation-and tomorrow's. But you cannot read this wonderfully-written essay without knowing that it is about you and your generation-the men and women who served with you during those days of your youth. It is a salute well-deserved and it should be reprinted in every paper in America and read in every civic club. Would you send it to yours? Please do.-bp

REMINDER

Have you checked the 86th FBG website lately (86fighterbombgroup.com)? John Rice has put in a lot of effort to lay out a good foundation. (Thanks, John, for taking on this challenge!) To enhance the contents, he would welcome any tidbits of facts, stories, pictures that make up your experiences during WWII. Only you can tell the story.

STAGE 1 IN THE PLANS FOR OUR NEXT REUNION

We now have the official poop on this year's annual reunion to be hosted by Executive Board member Jesse FITZPATRICK in Oklahoma City. The scheduled dates are Thursday October 26 through Saturday October 28, though, as usual, a number of people will start arriving on Wednesday. The location is the Biltmore Hotel. Rate is \$62.00 plus tax, which will apply for those arriving early and/or staying late. More details regarding activities, etc will be forthcoming in future Newsletter(s). Meanwhile, mark the dates on your calendar and plan on attending. At this point we never know how many more of these reunions will occur.

ADDRESS

401 S. Meridian Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73108



RESERVATIONS

1-800-522-6620

BILTMORE HOTEL OKLAHOMA

Hotel Features

Boasting a spectacular stone fireplace in the lobby with its deep leather seating areas and western art exhibits, the Biltmore Hotel Oklahoma cocoons guests in "make-yourself-at-home" hospitality. Guests can enjoy three outdoor pools, an indoor pool and a children's pool, two tennis courts, and the park that offers jogging trails, a putting green and basketball court. The modern fitness center features cardiovascular and strength training equipment and sauna. Guests are invited to get their mornings started with a complimentary continental breakfast and can choose from two restaurants and three bars, including a Country Western nightclub and an off-track betting facility. The business-friendly hotel features complimentary wireless Internet access, a modern business center and 20,940 square feet of flexible meeting space that includes two conference centers and 18 separate meeting rooms.

Location

Nestled in vibrant gardens and adjacent to a four-acre park located less than five miles from the Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City, Okla., the Biltmore Hotel Oklahoma encourages business and leisure travelers to embrace the authentic western heritage experience it embodies. Guests will enjoy the hotels proximity to White Water Bay, the Cox Convention Center and the SBC Bricktown Ballpark. Round-the-clock airport transportation is complimentary, as is the ample self-parking space.

Guestrooms

The 509 contemporary guestrooms of the Biltmore Hotel Oklahoma are found in three two-story buildings and feature western décor. Each guestroom offers separate sitting areas, complimentary weekday newspapers and cable television with premium channels.

Cartoon credit goes to Non Sequitur



BEWARE! Sid picked this

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2005

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR (123104)		\$8,210.17
Receipts for Year		
Annual Dues (11 @ \$10.00)	\$110.00	
Lifetime Members (6 @ \$100.00)	\$600.00	
Voluntary Contributions	\$1,050.00	
Minneapolis/St. Paul Reunion Receipts	\$650.00	
Bank Interest	<u>\$54.28</u>	
	\$2,464.28	
		\$10,674.46
Disbursements for Year		
Printing and Postage	\$988.65	
Bulk Mail Permit	\$150.00	
Stuffing/Labeling/Stamping (Goodwill Industries)	\$233.75	
Computer Supplies	\$102.98	
Office Supplies	\$167.10	
Funeral Flowers	\$96.98	
Minneapolis/St. Paul Reunion Pictures	<u>\$246.36</u>	
	\$1,985.82	
BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR (123105)		<u>\$8,688.63</u>

FOOTNOTES TO FINANCIAL REPORT

1. \$10 Annual Dues, \$100 Lifetime (Cumulative).
2. Make checks payable to **86th FBG Assoc.**
3. Payers since last Newsletter:
BOUCHARD (525) VC in memory of Gil Hurt, BRADFORD (525) dues,
TIEMANN (527) VC in memory of wife Edna, VIVIER (527) dues.
4. VC = Voluntary Contribution.
5. DON'T FORGET, ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE IF YOU ITEMIZE DEDUCTIONS ON YOUR TAX RETURN.

Die Howard

ROSTER MAINTENANCE

(Information intentionally omitted.)

SICK CALL

Jack HELMS (526) – Wife Edith writes that Jack has Parkinson's disease, but keeps right on trying to do some of the things that his condition makes difficult. He remembers so many of the guys in the 86th and sends his best to the entire Group.

Clayton RAGSDALE (GHQ Sgt. Major) – "Rags" reports in a January note that he took a fall (him too!) and pulled muscles and leaders in both feet and his right shoulder. They have been slow in healing and he still has to use a walker and cane. He would love to come to the Oklahoma City reunion, but can't travel by himself and all his old Headquarters buddies have passed on. If you are planning to attend the OKC doings and live anywhere near "Rags" in South Carolina, you'd be doing all of us a big favor if you could hook up with him. He's a great guy.

SUMNER, Marvin (GHQ) – A Christmas card from Marvin's daughter, Rena, reports that they were unable to make the last reunion because Marvin "had a catch in his hip and could hardly walk," but is fine now.

SAD NEWS

BURGOON, Harriett (527) – Al's wife passed away on October 13, 2005 after a prolonged illness of several years duration.

DiMEGLIO, Albert S. (525 Medic) – Died peacefully at home 10/05/05 per information from his daughter, Marian D. Simnor. He had been sick and in and out of hospitals and rehab since June 2004. His wife, Rose, predeceased him in July 1998. Albert was a Lifetime Member who attended two of the early reunions in St. Louis and Dayton. Marian asked that she and her husband continue to receive the Newsletters, which we are happy to do since, as I wrote her, the young people are our only hope for the continued existence of our Association.

DUNCAN, Dottie (525) – Enoch DUNCAN's widow passed away July 22, 2005 in Odessa, TX. She served her country in the U.S. Navy, and married Enoch on Dec 5, 1944, in Florida during her time in the military.

HEFNER, Nancy (527) – Carl HEFNER's wife passed away in her sleep on January 31, 2005. She had attended 13 reunions and her bubbly personality will be missed. Unfortunately, on January 5 of this year, Carl slipped and fell at home, breaking the right femur 2 inches below the hip joint. Now he is in rehab at a nursing home, learning how to walk again. He has orders to give up driving and to not live alone. For the present, anyone wanting to communicate with Carl may continue to send mail to his address in the Group Roster...he is under the watchful eyes of a son and daughter also living in Little Rock.

HURT, Gilbert T. (525 Engrg. Spec.) – Passed away 11/05/05 from complications of a stroke. Gil and I go way back to 1941. We were classmates at AM School in Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, TX along with fellow GFU's Johnny HAYNES, Mel HOFFMAN, and Gene HORNBECK. The last three were later members of the 527th and are all deceased. Gil was, of course, a Lifetime Member, LM5003, and attended 19 reunions.

(continued on next page)

MILLER, Edwin J. (527 Engrg.) - Deceased 10/01/05 of natural causes at an extended care unit in Conrad, MT, according to the burial service program sent by his wife. Ed was an early Lifetime Member who attended one reunion.

SHERWOOD, Salena (526) - Robert's widow died on July 7, 2005 according to word received from their daughter, Chey. Robert was a retired CMSgt and one of our first Lifetime Members (LM6004), who attended 8 reunions.

TERREBONNE, Elsie (525) - Roland's widow passed away Christmas Day 2004 following a massive stroke, according to information from her daughter Janet Bernard. She did not suffer and died in the home built by Roland "Terry" TERREBONNE who predeceased her on

10/12/91. They attended six reunions, including Oklahoma City in 1981 as the only representatives of the 525th, with Gil & Sue HURT and the "Chippewa Chief" Charlie MOOSE.

TIEMANN, Edna (527) - Ray writes that he lost his wife on the morning of 12/08/05. She was in Rehab following knee replacement surgery and had a heart attack. Ray made a donation to the Association "in memory of Edna, the love of my life."

VANCE, Ines (526) - She passed away 06/16/05 as informed by Angie DeLUCA and her daughter Susan. Inez was an avid and generous supporter of the Association as a Lifetime Member who attended 10 reunions and hosted two "mini-reunions" in Florida.



AND IN CONCLUSION

FROM GIL'S NEWSLETTER
12/07/89

"The South is Gonna Rise Again...But Not Too High. You know the Civil War ended some 124 years ago, but down here in the South you can still see, here and there, a picture or portrait of an old bedraggled Confederate General in his uniform, waving his saber and shouting, 'Hell, No! I ain't fergittin!' And then there was that smartly dressed Yankee General who shouted, 'I thought you said you could whup us fighting with corn stalks.' The old Confederate General replied, 'Yeah, but ya'll didn't fight with corn stalks!'"

WHOSE JOB IS IT?

This is a story about four people named *Everybody*, *Somebody*, *Anybody* and *Nobody*. There was an important job to be done and *Everybody* was asked to do it. *Everybody* was sure *Somebody* would do it. *Anybody* could have done it, but *Nobody* did it. *Somebody* got angry about that because it was *Everybody's* job. *Everybody* thought *Anybody* could do it but *Nobody* realized that *Everybody* wouldn't do it. It ended up that *Everybody* blamed *Somebody* when *Nobody* did what *Anybody* could have done.