

86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER



CHEERS! The Association continues to be an active organization. Read our Mission Statement on the masthead (page 2) and help us achieve it. This is an earnest request.



Location

Saturday night banquet at Best Western Hotel in Milwaukee, WI

Our Hosts

Chrm of the Board & President Debbie Baranek Rose and Randy

Photo by Ruth Weissner

86TH HAS ITS OWN ROSE PARADE

Well Sir, like the man said, we've had some well-run reunions and Milwaukee turned out to be right up there in the top tier of those well planned and executed. Everything came off like clockwork, except for the late arrival of the tour bus for our first excursion on Friday (and that was strictly the tour company's fault). The Best Western Hotel accommodations were first rate, (though the heavy quilt comforters on the beds were too much for me), and the full-service breakfasts we enjoyed the four mornings we were there were great, especially those scrumptious waffles.

GETTING UNDERWAY

One of these years we might as well change the "official" date of these reunions from Thursday thru Saturday to Wednesday thru Saturday; most folks are there on Wednesday as it is. This gives everyone Wednesday and Thursday to catch up on what's happened in the past year, with the registration desk covered, and, of course, the Hospitality Room open for libations, great "finger food," if that's the definition of 3-4 inch po' boys with all the trimmings, visiting and exaggerated story telling. Thursday night the Roses hosted a Pizza Party dinner.

86th FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

Vol. XXXI, No. 3

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2010

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Publisher - Martha M. Plowden

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Two-year term—Louis DeLuca, Rick Fitzpatrick, Debbie Rose
Three-year term - Jack Botten, Martha Plowden, Diane Senneff
Volunteer Pool: Bunny and John Sheffield

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Our Mission is to perpetuate the history of the 86th Fighter-Bomber Group.

We as veterans of WWII are organized to perpetuate the history of our fight to retain our American freedoms, to meet once a year for a reunion with the purpose of maintaining close ties with the Association and our comrades, and to encourage the heirs of our veterans to join with us in a united effort to pass along memories of those who served in the Group. A way to enrich and amplify understanding of the experiences of the veterans is through broadening of our website by archiving our veterans' experiences. Effective now, a call is issued for your help: feed the Webmaster (John Rice) with your photos, journals, stories, comments. We are hungry for material to archive.

Association Website: www.86fighterbombergroup.com

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MEETINGS?

Thursday afternoon, the Board of Directors met to elect new officers and Directors, and determine their recommendation to the general membership of the site for the 2011 reunion. Check out the masthead on Page 2 of this edition for the results of the election that, to the surprise of all, resulted in **no change**. (While you're on that page, take a peek at the Volume number in the upper left hand corner. That represents a BUNCH of Newsletters over the years.)

Mobile, Alabama was the Board's selection for next year, and it was confirmed by the general membership in their meeting later in the day. Kathryn LITTLE, granddaughter of Ken SUDDETH (527th), will be our host, assisted by members of her family.



The last two reunions have been hosted by members of the second generation, and next year will be a third generation production. These facts bolster our hopes for perpetuation of the Association after the rest of us old-timers are no longer here. To paraphrase Veep Rick FITZPATRICK, "The first couple of reunions I attended were because of my Dad (Jesse), but since then they've become one of the highlights of the year, one that Peggy and I always look forward to seeing all the new friends we have made over the past five or six years."

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE TOURS

After 5- to 6-hour tours of Milwaukee on Friday and Saturday, we had a new appreciation of Milwaukee. The outcome was totally positive and the city is rightly named "Milwaukee" which comes from an Indian word Millioke, with a meaning of *Gathering Place by the Water*.

The tour took us on a ride along the Lake Michigan shoreline so we could see beautiful parks and neighborhoods of showcase homes. In recent years the city has begun to improve the neighborhoods and its image (in 2006 Milwaukee was named one of the "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation). Old World Third Street is an interesting neighborhood where the German heritage is quite evident. That is where we had a "genuine Milwaukee" lunch of bratwurst and beer. Our group filled the tavern (what do you think happened to the noise level?) but additional space was outside in the front where there were seats, a good view and a feeling of being right at home.

From the tavern we moved around the corner close by to the port on the Milwaukee River for boarding a cruise vessel (Edelweiss Cruise Company). On board we had a choice of outdoor viewing decks or the inside surrounded by windows. Once we were underway, the vessel headed out onto Lake Michigan. The whole purpose was to showcase Milwaukee from the water...a very expansive view and lots of water.

The Saturday tour started out at Milwaukee's most visually prominent cultural attraction... the Quadracci Pavilion at the Milwaukee Art Museum located in downtown Milwaukee on the edge of Lake Michigan. The pavilion, designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, was completed in 2001 (cost \$100 million). **The following words in brackets were copied from a website** [Unprecedented in American architecture, the Burke Brise Soleil is a moveable, wing-like sunscreen that rests on top of the Museum's vaulted, glass-enclosed Windhover Hall.



[The "wings" open Tuesday–Sunday at 10 a.m. with the Museum and close at sunset. While the Burke Brise Soleil has a wingspan comparable to that of a Boeing 747-400, its two ultrasonic wind sensors automatically close the wings if the wind speed reaches 23 mph or greater. Unlike the airplane, the Museum prefers to remain on the ground.]

NOTE: We made a special effort to be present exactly when the wings opened (takes 3.5 minutes).

The tour on Saturday provided a good sense of how Milwaukee works and plays. Most of us associate Milwaukee's reputation with breweries (was once home to four of the world's largest breweries—Schlitz, Blatz, Pabst, and Miller). Today the remaining major brewery is Miller Brewing Company which we saw from the bus. Another "must see" was Miller Park, home of the Milwaukee Brewers. Milwaukee is headquarters to several manufacturers and service companies; among them Harley-Davidson, Briggs & Stratton, Johnson Controls, Manpower Inc, M&I Bank.

Lunch was at a landmark restaurant near Marquette University: Miss Katie's Diner. When you step inside it is like moving back in time. The waitresses even wear old school waitress-like dresses. They did not waste any time bringing out the plates of food which were fuller than full.

After lunch the tour bus headed to Waukesha Airport. The Warbird chapter of the EAA brought together several WWII era aircraft for up close inspections and photos. We were free to wander around the area to see the two P51s, three T6s, and primary trainer aircraft.

The P51s and T6s put on an air show for us and we had nice visits with the pilots. There was good recognition for our Group...and the refreshments were great.

HITHER AND THERE IN THE PASSING PARADE

It was GREAT seeing Bob TEEPLE and Fred/Bill BARENTINE and their families again, after missing them in Houston last year (and the Barentines in San Antonio, too), though we missed Tobi TEEPLE's smiling face.

As will be noted elsewhere in the list of attendees, the ROSES were out in force. After much head-scratching and consultation with Prez Debbie, I think I got them all properly "slotted"... And speaking of the Roses, did anyone else catch proud papa Randy gyrating on the dance floor with his daughters?.

Speaking of which, where were our resident Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers pair – Jack BOTTEN and Charlotte REID? Did I miss them on the dance floor?

Bill BOWMAN, our industrious Property Manager and wife Mary, be it noted, became the first of our second generation members to attend ten reunions.

After missing her in Houston last year it was good to see Veep Emeritus Audrey BROWN back for her 22nd gathering of the clan.

Cecil OMO and Harriett COOCH (27th FBG) have attended our last three reunions and are now firmly embedded in our "family". We would like to think that some of the other 27th members on the roster will follow Cecil's example, starting next year in Mobile....

Helen EYER brought her son along to her second reunion. Greg recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan, but was too modest to talk about his experiences. (Post reunion, I received a lifetime membership check from Helen with a note reading, "The Milwaukee reunion was such a pleasure and we are looking forward to Mobile. Debbie and Randy did a superior job in every way."

Take a look at the list of attendees elsewhere and notice the number of veterans with 20 or more reunions to their credit (14 of 18). We know we can always count on the "diehards" as long as they are at least semi-mobile; what we need is more of those with fewer, or zero, reunions. You folks are missing the chance(s) of a lifetime to renew acquaintances and experience a great time while you're still able.

John RICE, Webmaster of our internet site (www.86fighterbombergroup.com) was there, with a lot of ideas for upgrading and improving it. Check it out from time to time....

Everyone was pleased to see Germaine THOMPSON looking well at her first reunion since Dr. John passed away in 2007. She was able to attend through the courtesy of John and Gisela DOLNY bringing her from her home in Nekoosa from theirs in Danbury, both in Wisconsin.

Our super-efficient Newsletter Publisher and Treasurer, Martha PLOWDEN, and Dick were there, of course, with Dick hearing about as well as Your Editor, which isn't much.

Ralph FRITH, who brought his daughter, Elaine HUNTER in the absence of his wife Rachel (see In Memoriam). He and Louie DELUCA carried on a running dialog about the equipment and merits of the power plants on different aircraft.

Angie DELUCA, looking much better than a year ago, and Pauline BOUCHARD, who missed last year, had their heads together deep in conversation. Wonder what they were talking about.

John SENNEFF had his nose buried in the tech manual of a new guidance system he recently purchased for his airplane. Nothing like a little on-the-job training. Wife and Director Diane sat in on her first Board of Directors meeting, and served as volunteer advisor and operator of the fancy waffle maker in the Lake City Restaurant. Many thanks, Diane.

Dick and Ruth WIESSNER were round and about with Ruth "shooting" those great pix she takes, and Dick expounding at length on all the problems encountered in guiding the impressive new Minnesota Air National Guard Museum to fruition.

Carl and Jackie BARANEK looked every bit the proud parents/grandparents of our hosts and their families.

WINDING DOWN

The traditional group pix were taken in the hotel lobby following our return from the Waukeesha Airport. (We received a letter of thanks from Scott Dennison expressing his pleasure of our visit with the Warbirds.) Everyone then departed to get gussied up for the concluding banquet. Entertainment started an hour before dinner, consisting of a great guitarist and female vocalist who played and sang lots of those great old Glenn Miller era tunes, as well as those in prominence when our kids were "tripping the light fantastic". (DELUCA and I never did get together for a duet of the "golden oldies" - him with his great voice, and me with my tin ear.) The food was delicious, especially the almond crusted tilapia (fish) I was smart enuf to order after years of failed attempts to get a medium rare steak.

Sunday was getaway day. Those driving or with later flights enjoyed a final breakfast and recounting events of the previous four days. Unfortunately, ex-Prez Glen MARGERUM and I had an early flight, so we missed out on these activities. We had a smooth and uneventful flight to Vegas, where Glen debarked, and on to Ontario Airport (outside L.A.). When I arrived at my parked car I discovered I did not have my keys (after losing my money clip earlier). But that's another story for another time. (P.S. Everything turned out alright.)

REUNION ATTENDANCE

*

- 21 BARANEK, Carl & Jackie
 27 BARENTINE, Fred, Bette & guest Ellen JACOBSEN (caregiver)
 21 BOTTEN, Jack & Charlotte REID
 24 BOUCHARD, Hubie, Pauline & daughters Amy and Ann
 10 BOWMAN, Bill & Mary
 20 BOWMAN, Jim & guest Janice SPAHR
 22 BROWN, Audrey
 7 BROWN, Roy & Francis
 27 DELUCA, Louie and Angie
 26 DOLNY, John & Gisela
 2 EYER, Helen & son Greg
 7 FITZPATRICK, Denny & Donna
 28 FITZPATRICK, Jesse
 7 FITZPATRICK, Rick & Peggy
 4 FREY, George
 16 FRITH, Ralph & daughter Elaine HUNTER
 30 HOWARD, Sid
 8 LITTLE, Ann
 5 LITTLE, Kathryn
 30 MARGERUM, Glen
 3 OMO, Cecil & Harriett COOCH
 23 PLOWDEN, Dick & Martha
 3 RICE, John
 — ROSE, Kent (Randy's brother) & wife Marie (Debbie's sister), & sons Carlton & Mason
 5 ROSE, Randy & Debbie; daughters Brianne PITTS & Chelsea ROSE with her fiancée Kent JOHNSON;
 Karen SOSTARICH (Debbie's sister) with guest Dan NOLAN
 23 SENNEFF, John & Diane
 5 SHEFFIELD, Bunny & John
 28 TEEPLE, Bob & guest Peggy CARABERIS
 23 THOMPSON, Germaine
 20 WEISSNER, Dick, Ruth, & granddaughter Brooke & Nick LUNDBOHN

VETERANS—18

WIVES—9

WIDOWS—3

FAMILY—26

GUESTS—7

TOTAL—63

* Reunions attended

POTPOURRI

✂ In late June we received a very generous contribution from Al SARACUSA (527), a long time supporter of the Association as evidenced by the 18 reunions he and Julie attended. He is no longer able to attend due to travel problems (age 94) but he does miss the camaraderie of the reunions. He asked that they be remembered by "the gang" at the next reunion.

✂ In the same mail there was a letter, and a nice check, from Ralph LEWTON (526) another long time supporter - 17 reunions attended. He, too, is no longer doing any traveling, but he appreciates receiving the Newsletters. (And we miss those wonderful cookies Mary used to bring to the Hospitality Room.)

✂ In September we received an exceptionally generous donation from John SORENSON (525) with a letter reading, "I am not too happy about being grounded, but hope all will have a good time in Wisconsin, my home State. Will be 92 in November so guess I've beat the law of averages" (Well, why not, John. You always were above average - Editor).

✂ Even most of you uneducated non-Californians have heard of Coach John WOODEN (the Wizard of Westwood - UCLA) who recently passed away at age 99. Here is one of his homilies, a favorite of mine and one worth some reflection:

Talent is God-given. Be Humble.

Fame is Man-Given. Be Grateful.

Conceit is Self-Given. Be Careful.

✂ I am indebted to ex-Prez Glen Margerum for the following contribution:

Be on the lookout for the **History Channel** presenting "**WWII in HD**" episodes from time to time. One show in this worthwhile series features the WWII beginnings as U.S. forces prepared to go to, deploy, and move into Algeria, Tunisia, etc. in Northern Africa. Camp Kilmer, Atlantic troop crossings and the Oran Invasion are just a few of the familiar items in this episode.

✂ Also, look for another **History Channel** series called "**Patton 360**" where the Patton forces land in Northern Africa, battle Rommel and push into Sicily, Italy, Germany... supported and protected by the 86th FBG!"

✂ On October 7, 2010 we received a letter from David COVINGTON, son of the late Jim COVINGTON (525th), stating, "Our family is very appreciative of the fellowship extended to our father, Col. James C. Covington, by your association for so many years. Dad loved to attend the reunions with your Group and he was always in touch with his 86th Group friends, especially after he retired. I enjoyed my one opportunity to come with him and meet so many of the men he always spoke so highly about. Enclosed is a donation of \$500.00 from his estate to keep the operation going."

In acknowledging receipt of this exceptional gift, your editor thanked him and the family, and indicated that, while money was a very important part of our continued existence, active participation by our second and third generation families and friends was equally significant, and I hoped that we would be seeing more of him and them at future reunions.

✂ Some years ago Dr. John THOMPSON purchased some spare 527th "bomb throwing crow" logos, as well as a number of wind-breaker jackets. The logo on my jacket has reached the final stages of disintegration, so if anyone out there has a spare (Germaine?), I'd be agreeable to a reasonable price - Ye Editor.

✂ As a fund raiser, Jack BOTTEN, our photographer extraordinaire, put together a brochure in "living color" that contains reproductions of all the cap/lapel pins issued at our reunions, up to and including Milwaukee. A few remain available on a "first come, first served" basis at a cost of \$6.00, including postage and packaging. Send your check, payable to the "86th FBG Assn." to the Secretary.

(POTPOURRI continued from page 7)

✂ Rosters are updated as changes occur. Each Newsletter carries these changes (under ROSTER MAINTENANCE) and interested members update their rosters from these items. We have been sending group rosters annually with an issue of this newsletter. This increases our postage costs dramatically, and we believe that many, if not most, members do not use these rosters at all.

This expense could be used for better things; therefore, we are establishing a Roster Mailing List for those who request them, and will discontinue the mailing of the combined roster/newsletter. Rosters will continue to go to those hosting reunions, officers, and board members **and members who specifically request them.**

SICK CALL

FLAKE, Bennie G. (525 Pilot) - Bennie has been ill for sometime with Parkinson's disease and is in a nursing home, according to his wife on 10/01/10. Some of his old buddies might want to write him at 119 Gayven Drive, Ball, LA 71405-4901.

ROSTER MAINTENANCE

The contents of this section are intentionally omitted

IN MEMORIAM



BRUNDIN, Richard T. (526 Pilot) – Deceased 04/08/10 [Social Security Death Index (SSDI)]. He was the last person on our 526th Squadron not located. Two persons remain on the 525th list.

ERICKSON, Nils G. (526 Painter) – Deceased 06/26/**06** as advised by the Department of Veterans Affairs. We were never notified, even though he was carried on the Active Roster.



FRITH, Rachel (526) – Ralph's wife passed away 07/13/10 after a long, debilitating illness that had prevented them from attending reunions for a number of years. She was a "class act" in every way, with a beautiful way of expressing herself. Witness her poem *AIR*

CORPS GROUP REUNION (found on the last page of this Newsletter) that so beautifully captures the essence of our get-togethers.

HART, Kenneth E. (526) – Kenny died on 9/03/09 at a health center in Cedar Falls, Iowa at age 89 according to the obit sent by his wife. He was a strong supporter of the Association, was a Lifetime Member and attended 14 reunions, the last at Minneapolis/St. Paul II in 2005.



accompanied Glen to the reunions until her health no longer permitted her to do so. She made numerous friends among the veterans and their families, and maintained contact with them over the years. Whenever she called, she always asked about one of her friends of whom she had lost track. She was a genuine lady who contributed much to the Association, not the least hosting the Las Vegas reunion in 1997 with Glen. She was one of the irreplaceable ones.



MOORE, Glenn C. (525) – He passed away at his home 09/26/09 after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease. Glenn, who according to Jack BOTTEN was one of the youngest pilots in the squadron, attaining age 20 two months before VE Day, completed 118 combat missions. After the war he served in the Reserves, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. After graduating from Oklahoma State University he spent his career in the Nowata, OK Public Schools system, the final 18 years as Superintendent of Schools. Glenn was an early Lifetime Member and attended 14 reunions, the last in Atlanta in 1998.



BARENTINE, William F. (527 Flight Chief) - We lost one of our real stalwarts on 11/28/10 with the passing of everybody's friend (Fred to most, Bill to Bette). He had been in declining health since suffering a stroke in 2008. Until then, he and Bette had attended 26 consecutive reunions. Everyone was pleased that he was able to come this year, albeit in a wheel chair and with a caregiver. Needless to say, he was one of our first Lifetime Members. He will be buried in the National Cemetery in Elwood, IL on 12/02/10. At Bette's request, a donation will be made in his name to the Air Force Aid Society.



YEAR-ROUND JOY
 Christmas is full of shiny things
 That sparkle, gleam, and glow;
 These holiday pleasures dazzle us,
 And yet, deep down, we know...
 That Christmas has its special gifts,
 But our year-round joy depends
 On the cherished people in our lives,
 Our family and our friends.
 By Joanna Fuchs



FINANCIAL REPORT—FIRST 3 QUARTERS 2010

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF 2009 \$4,365.25

Receipts for 3 Quarters

Annual Dues (11 @ \$10.00).....	\$110.00
Lifetime Memberships (3 @ \$100.00).....	\$300.00
Voluntary Contributions.....	\$1,214.24
Activities Reservation Forms (ARF)	\$4,837.00
Reunion Pins Brochures.....	\$60.00
	\$6,521.24

..... **\$10,886.49**

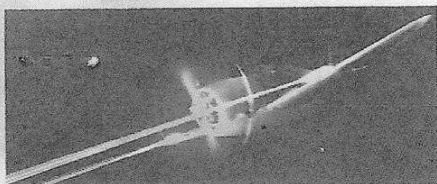
Disbursements for 3 Quarters

Printing and Postage.....	\$775.93
Phone (for 2009).....	\$12.60
Funeral Flowers/Memorial Donation	\$260.30
Bulk Mail Permit Renewal	\$185.00
Houston Reunion Expense (Incl Van Rental and Event Deposits).....	\$900.94
Group Picture Mailing	\$8.74
Bank Service Charges (\$9.00 per month per account level)	\$63.00
Hotel Deposit-Milwaukee Reunion	\$100.00
Hospitality Room-Milwaukee	\$171.08
Tour Buses-Milwaukee	\$1,921.00
Dinner Banquet.....	\$1,739.43
	\$6,267.13

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF THIRD QUARTER (093010) \$4,619.36

Footnotes:

1. Printing and Postage expense for the 2nd quarter was understated \$28.02. The correct balance at the close of the quarter (063010) was \$2,557.73.
2. Annual Dues: Cecil OMO (27th FBG), Richard SINGLETON (527)
3. Lifetime Memberships: Bill ALLEN (526), Helen EYER (526 in memory of Dr. Willard J. EYER), Robert HERRIGAN (525), Bunny SHEFFIELD (527), John SHEFFIELD (527)
4. Voluntary Contributions: Hubie BOUCHARD (525), James C. COVINGTON Estate (525), Sid HOWARD (527 in memory of Norma J. HOWARD), Ralph LEWTON (526), Jim Michaud (526), Richard ROBERTS (527), Al SARACUSA (527), Christina SHARP (GHQ) In Memory of Robert C. TOWNSEND, John SORENSON (525), FirstGiving fundraiser \$300.62 & \$115.62
5. ARE YOU A LIFETIME MEMBER? IF YOU ARE, THERE IS AN LM FOLLOWED BY 4 NUMBERS IN THE BRACKETED INFORMATION FOLLOWING YOUR NAME ON THE ROSTER. IF IT'S NOT THERE, CONTACT THE SECRETARY.
6. Lifetime Memberships are family possessions, passed on to surviving wives and children/grandchildren who affiliate with the Association. Such persons shall be known as "legacies". If they choose to pay dues, they may do so and such payments will be treated as Voluntary Contributions until or unless they attain Lifetime Membership status in their own right.
7. DON'T FORGET, ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE IF YOU ITEMIZE DEDUCTIONS ON YOUR TAX RETURN.



A Cockpit View of Air to Ground Battle

Allied Strafing in World War II

WILLIAM B. COLGAN



Allied Strafing in World War II

A Cockpit View of Air to Ground Battle

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William B. Colgan, Colonel, USAF (Ret); inductee 1996 Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame, "Top Fighter- Bomber Pilot:" World War II, Korea, and Vietnam; author of *World War II Fighter-Bomber Pilot*, now in 3rd edition, text at U.S. Air Force Academy and praised as "definitive, tells our story" by fighter-bomber pilots and ground crews; now lives with his wife Anita in Florida.

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SPECIAL NOTE: After mailing the group pix taken in Milwaukee, extras remain on a first come, first served basis: Board of Directors—3 copies, Veterans—2, Wives—3, Family Members and Guests—1. Contact the Secretary if interested.

Autumn leaves, rustling together to the appointed place
the old warriors come. Pilgrims, drifting across the land
they fought to preserve.
Where they meet is not so important anymore. They meet
and that's enough for now. Greetings echo across a lobby.
Hands reach out and arms draw buddies close. Embraces,
that as young men they were too uncomfortable to give,
too shy to accept so lovingly.
But deep within these Indian Summer days
they have reached a greater understanding of life and love.
The shells holding their souls are weaker now,
but hearts and minds grow vigorous remembering.
And friendly laughter echoes at shocks of hair gone gray
or white, or merely gone. The rugged, slender bodies lost forever,
yet they no longer need to prove their strength.
Some are now sustained by one of "medicine's miracles."
And even in this fact they manage to find humor.
The women, all those who waited, all those who love them,
have watched the changes take place. Now, they observe and listen,
and smile at each other; as glad to be together as the men.
Talk turns to war and planes and foreign lands. Stories are told
and told again, reweaving the threadbare fabric of the past,
mending one more time the banner of their youth.
They hear the vibrations, feel the shudder of metal
as propellers whine and whirl, and planes come to life.
These birds with fractured wings can see beyond the mist of clouds,
and they are in the air again, chasing the wind,
feeling the exhilaration of flight, close to the heavens;
the wild and blue yonder of their anthem.
Dead comrades, hearing their names spoken,
wanting to share in this time, if only in spirit,
move silently among them. Their presence is felt
and smiles appear beneath misty eyes. Each, in his own way,
may wonder who will be absent another year.
The room grows quiet for a time.
Suddenly an ember flames to life. Another memory burns.
The talk may turn to other wars and other men, and of futility.
So, this is how it goes. The past is so much the present.
In their ceremonies, the allegiances, the speeches,
and the prayers, one cannot help but hear the deep
eternal love of country they will forever share.
Finally, it is time to leave. Much too soon to set aside
this little piece of yesterday, but the past cannot be held too long
for it is fragile. They say, "Farewell...See you next year,
God willing", breathing silent prayers for one another,
each keeping a little of the others with him forever.

