



"Jungle" Air Force Newsletter

News and Information for Members of the 13th Air Force Veterans Association

APRIL 2011

Cliff Johnson
President

Ray Perkins
Vice-President
Reunion Coordinator

John Reeves
Recording Secretary

Tom Bonney Jr.
Treasurer

Phil Dyer
Newsletter Editor

Phil & Betty Dyer
2012 Reunion Coordinates

Lenore Daniels
Sheri Pipes
Membership Managers

Lucian Doyle
Awards Chairman

John Reeves
& **Ray Perkins**
Chaplains

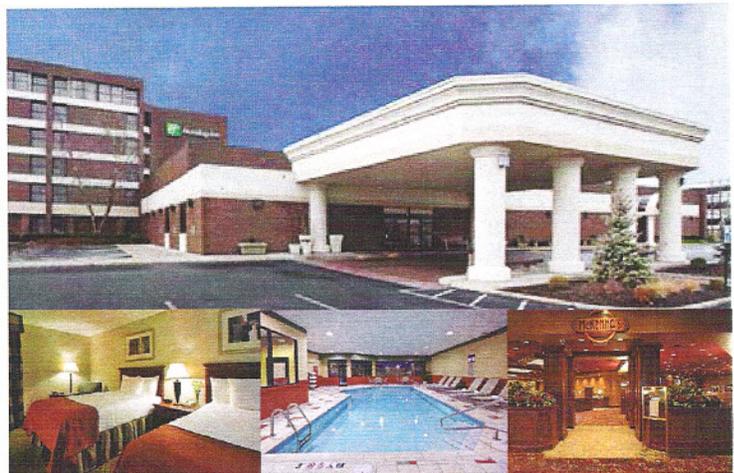
*I wonder if chaplains
have TS slips...
Remember them?*

Dayton/Fairborn, Ohio Suburb of Dayton

Join us for the Dayton Reunion, October 5 - 8, 2011. Plan to come so you can enjoy our association's remarkable 143th "Jungle Air Force" marble memorial in the US Air Force Museum's incredible Memory Gardens. That's only one of the great events planned for our October get together. Another favorite happens again... the special buffet dinner "Under the Wings" actually under the wings of a B-52. Planning has gone well thanks to consultation with

Phil and Betty Dyer, Dick Phelps, and Ray Perkins. Tom Bonney, Jr., with the assistance of our bookkeeper Eileen Luck, has been an immeasurable help in handling the Association's finances. Even now, Ray is busy planning for the 2012 reunion, and Phil and Betty have agreed to be the coordinators for the 2013 reunion. For our Dayton Reunion, a very up-to-date Holiday Inn within 2 miles of the Air Force Museum has been chosen. (Pictures above) Included in the cost of the room is a full buffet breakfast in a large, classy dining area. A full service restaurant with a very nice menu is also available when needed. Special handicapped rooms are available, and the parking area is large, well-lighted, and right next to the hotel. The hotel is in a secure, corporate business area, near many restaurants and a half mile from the large Fairfield Commons Mall. Our Hospitality Room is spacious and convenient. Though the room cost is a bit more this year, we determined that the many advantages and conveniences of this facility... including the opportunity to interact with two other groups of veterans... will make it clearly worth it.

Another unique opportunity will be when



we share the Saturday evening "Under the Wings" Buffet Dinner with the 39th Troop Carrier Squadron, a group much like ours in age and service experience. The 39th is also staying at our hotel as is another group, the Vietnam Security Forces Veterans. We will have opportunities to exchange stories and experiences with our fellow veterans at breakfast, at the hotel, and Saturday "Under the Wings".

As many of you will remember, at our 2006 Dayton Reunion, the Cedarville Jazz Band was a great hit, and arrangements are in the works to include them again. We have also made arrangements for you to enjoy a Cedarville University Theatrical production of a famous Agatha Christie murder mystery. The Cedarville theater department is well known for its wonderful plays and the campus is within a reasonable bus ride from our hotel. Our very important Friday evening banquet, during which we will honor several of you, will be at our hotel in one of their spacious banquet rooms. The traditional Ladies Luncheon is definitely included on Saturday, and we plan to get the men together for a lunch (somewhere!) at the same time.

Continued on next page



Dayton/Fairborn, Ohio Suburb of Dayton - continued from front page

Since Dayton is the home of so much aviation history, we will offer a remarkable trip to sites which honor the Wright Brother's legacy and the famous Aviation Trail.

Furthermore... we do want all our members, associate members, family members, and significant others to come to the 13th AFVA Reunion. If a member is hard pressed financially, we have a way of being of help. Contact one of the association's officers for more

information.

So many of our members attend each year at some considerable sacrifice and the assistance of loved ones, and we pray that remarkable effort will continue.

See you in Fairborn (Suburb of Dayton).

President Cliff Johnson and wife, Pam

From the Editor...

Your Editor wants to inform you...
"Do Not Eat Black Jelly Beans"

HAPPY EASTER!

Greetings each and every one of you. Don, be careful that the bluebird of paradise does not !@#\$\$ on your birthday cake, 90 years is a dangerous time.

Many things have happened since the last newsletter and I will do the best I can to bring you up to date. I hope you all enjoyed the amount of snow we had this winter - heck even the "Easter Bunny" can't find his way out from under the snow!

Cliff (our president) and Pam (she is the pretty one), have worked hard to put the reunion together and they are hoping for a large turnout. The Holiday Inn of Fairborn (suburb of Dayton) is the property that they selected and it sounds like a super property that each and every one of you will enjoy, a full plated hot breakfast is included in the registration fee. People that are flying in will have the price of the transportation from the airport to Holiday Inn paid for by the Green County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

We are having 2 banquets this year. One will be held at the hotel and the second one Saturday night "Under the Wings" of a B-24 in the Air Force Museum along with a Troop Carrier group that will also be joining us. This group will be with us all during the reunion. Cliff and Pam request that we be on our best behavior!

Check the obituary page for a partial list of members we've lost, seems this list is getting longer and longer



with each issue. Thanks to the memory fund that the Bonney Family set up, our treasury balance increased by about \$1000. We cannot thank you enough.

I can't impress upon you enough to make your reservation early because as I mentioned before, another Veterans group will be staying at the same hotel so rooms may be at a premium. (Remember, the early birds get the worms, in this case the rooms.)

Pay your 2012 dues by sending them to Tom Bonney Jr., or Eileen Luck.

Cliff and Pam have worked hard to put this reunion together so lets have a great turnout.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

THE 13TH AFVA NOW HAS A **TAX EXEMPT NUMBER** THAT WE CAN USE, WITH THAT NUMBER WE NO LONGER HAVE TO PAY SALES TAX. ALSO... PEOPLE MAY DONATE MONEY TO OUR ORGANIZATION AND USE THEIR DONATION AS A **TAX DEDUCTION**.

Please do not forget the executive board meeting that is being held Oct. 5, at 8 pm. All past and present officers may attend this meeting. All members, and associate members can attend the Saturday morning meeting, these meetings are very important because they are the guiding lights of our organization.

Sincerely,

Phil & Betty Dyer

NOTE - REBUTTAL

It is most certainly NOT "IMPOSSIBLE" to come out in the black on expenses. We have the number of people attending the functions. We know how much each event costs us. Keep these numbers at your fingertips and you have all the info needed. Decline of membership has nothing to do with the answer. We should know because Betty and I have been down this road and don't like excuses. - Phil

2010 Branson Reunion Notes

Finally, after all of the concentrated effort of so many wonderful people, the 2010 13th Air Force Veterans Reunion was held in Branson and enjoyed tremendously by all! Those who were not able to be with us were missed tremendously!

We want to give an enormous amount of thanks to the following people who helped so much in making this a successful event:

Ray Perkins, our planner, who selected the Stone Castle Hotel where we stayed, The Keeter Center at the College of the Ozarks where we had our banquet, and all of the events plus transportation to them plus dining arrangements for those days. This was not a simple thing to do, and we owe him a lot.

Dick Phelps, who accepted the responsibility of interim-treasurer after we lost Bob O'Brien. Dick received the money for the reservations for events and together with Tom Bonney, who printed name tags, labels and tickets for the events and had them sent to the hotel... had everything ready for us to coordinate when we arrived.

Thanks to them, registration of 56 attendees went well. Our reunion began Wednesday, Sept. 15 with registration that afternoon followed by the reception and refreshments. The Excaliber Room (23' x 59') served us well for registration, the social events, the general business meeting, and the Memorial Service.

A delicious complimentary breakfast was served each morning and each day was filled to the brim with activity. Thursday's entertainment included The Twelve Irish Tenors and Yakov Smirnoff, the Russian comedian, with meals at Peppercorns and Shorty Smalls. (Everyone gained weight on this trip!) Friday's events included lunch at the Fall Creek Restaurant, then a tour of the Stone Hill Winery. Then we went to the musical, Noah, which was magnificent, simply beyond all expectations.

We then enjoyed dinner at McFarloin's Restaurant which was followed by "SIX" a contemporary musical presentation by the Knudsen Brothers. This was a busy day!

Annual business meeting results:

Officers elected for 2011 are:

Cliff Johnson	President
Ray Perkins.....	President Elect
Tom E. Bonney	Treasurer
John Reeves	Recording Secretary
Lenore Daniels	Membership Mgr.
Phil Dyer	Newsletter Editor
Lucien Doyle	Awards Chairman
John Reeves	Chaplain
Ray Perkins.....	Chaplain

It was decided that our 2011 reunion would be held in Dayton, Ohio, tentative dates are October 5-8 and the reunion for 2012 will probably be in Oklahoma City.

In an attempt to replenish our "coffers", the membership dues were increased to \$35.00, and we were encouraged to send our payments ASAP to:

Eileen Luck
13th AFVA Bookkeeper
145 Oakwood Lane
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Saturday, Sept 18, began with our Memorial Service, which Cliff Johnson so impressively conducted. Those we have lost this year were remembered: Bob O'Brien, (our treasurer), Leonard Daniels (our recording secretary), "Skipper" McClendon, who was credited with rescuing 700 (est) downed airmen in the Pacific.

Others were also missed: Nick Marrone, who is fighting cancer, Glenn Norris, who had a stroke but is much improved at this time, Tom Bonney, who was hospitalized at the time of our reunion with multiple myeloma, Phil and Betty Dyer, and Lucien Doyle who had surgery earlier this year, but is much better at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with each one of them and their families.

The Ladies Luncheon was attended by 22 ladies. The food was fantastic and the speakers were both very impressive! Rebecca Wright, who is a student at the College of the Ozarks, spoke regarding her experience escorting a veteran back to Iwo Jima. She was one of several students who had this honor. She was a tremendous speaker and we were so blessed to hear her.

continued on page 5



The 321st Air Service Group

I think it is about time you heard from the 321st Air Service Group but I can speak mainly for the 1984th Quartermaster Truck Company. The Group boarded the United States Army Transport, the Brazil, and set sail from Staten Island on May 15, 1943. It took about 30 days for this ship to cross part of the Atlantic, go through the Panama Canal, cross the equator and international date line to the South Pacific.

On June 25th 1943 we arrived at our first overseas destination, Espiritu Santo, New Herbrides and joined the 13th Air Force.

Our mission, as could be suspected, was to give logistic support to the 13th Air Force. There was another truck company, the 1960th as I remember. We hauled rations, gasoline, bombs, all kinds of supplies, and pilots. The truck drivers got to know the pilots very well. One of the pilots took one of my drivers on an unforgettable ride in a P-38.

In January of 44 we left Espiritu Santo for Munda, New Georgia where we stayed until April 10th then to Los Negos. Another short stay was at Biak Island. During the course of these moves, the original commander of the 1984th, Captain Jack Hillard, was promoted to Major and I took command of the truck company and remained commander until VJ Day.

On February 7 we left Biak aboard an L.S.T., my company taking up the whole ship and landed at Ieyte. For reasons I do not now recall my truck company was attached to the Fifth Air Force. We jungle hopped south through several islands until we reached Zamboanga

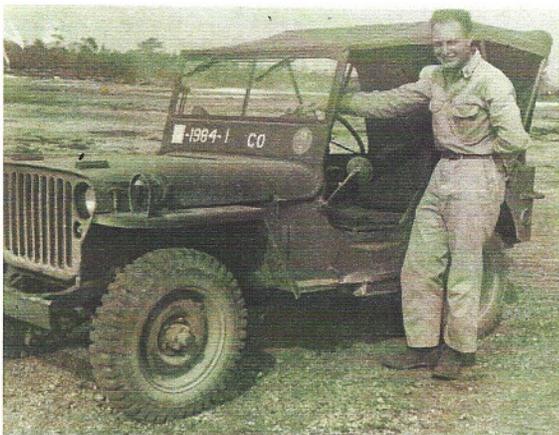
(where the monkeys have no tails!) on April 22, 1945. At one of the stations enroute south of all our nearly new trucks were taken from us by the Fifth Air Force and we were left with a fleet of junk. My drivers salvaged three vehicles that would run. Some were enroute we became reattached to the 13th Air Force and was issued a new set of vehicles. Our mission at Zamboanga was two fold, supporting the Air Force and off loading ships that were bringing supplies for the Eighth Air Force that was deploying from Europe for the Japan invasion. Stacks of boxes of trucks and material was "as far as the eye could see."

My truck company was scheduled for the second wave of the invasion and we were sitting on our "barrack bags" waiting for an LST. They VJ Day happened and instead of going on the invasion I returned to the states in October of 1945 with many pleasant memories of the experience.

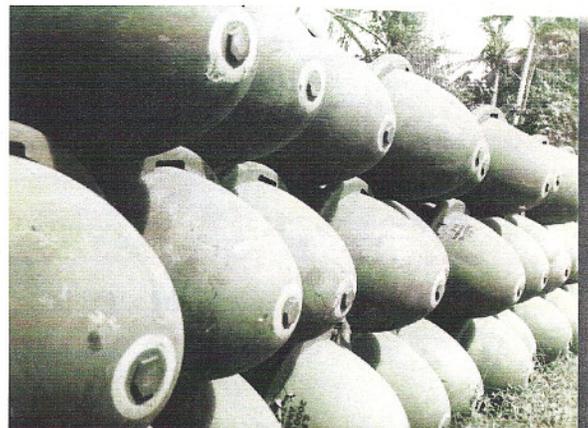
I stayed in contact with a number of the men in the company for many years but this year the contact has been reduced to one widow. Time!

I remained in the service and retired from the Army in 1961. I continued on with a civilian job until 1977 and retired again. Lots of traveling including Elderhosteling since then. We have been in a retirement home now for 25 years, still going at 95!

Art Johnson
LTC AUS (Ret)
1301 New Stine Rd
Bakersfield, CA 93309-3505



Art Johnson standing by his Jeep. Company Commander, 1984th Quartermaster Truck Company 13th AF.

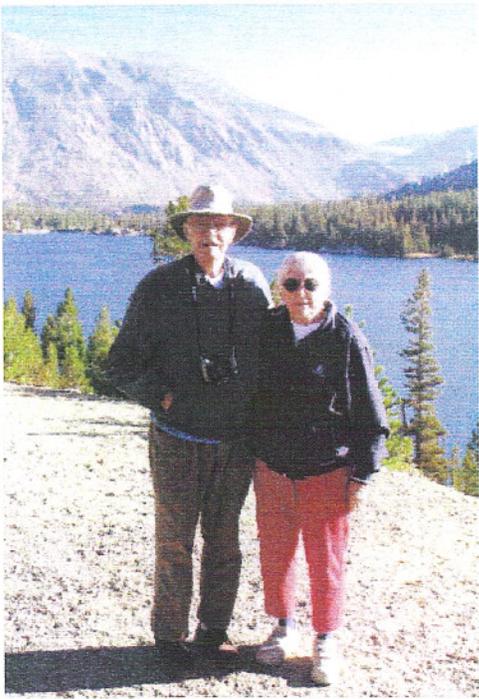


13th AF bomb stock pile.



Don - Peg could not afford a birthday card for you so she asked us if we could put a Birthday Greeting in the newsletter...

Happy Birthday Don!



*Don & Peg with Tioga Lake in the background.
On their way to Yosemite National Park.*

EASTER GREETINGS

from Don and Peg

Our travel in 2010 was in the western US...no long journeys. We spent a month in February and March in Green Valley Arizona and enjoyed local sights that we had missed in the past. Then in April and May we stayed in my brother Dave's condo in Palm Desert, CA and again visited many local attractions. The end of August a second great grandchild, Levi Joseph Klein, arrived in Indianapolis. September found us visiting the Eastern Sierra Region and Yosemite National Park in California. For retired people we seem to stay very busy. We play our clarinets in the Casa Combo which requires 2 hours of practice a week plus concerts. We swim laps 3 days a week at 7 am when the temperature is 50 degrees or above, play bridge once a week, Don plays 9 holes of golf twice a week and is chairman of the building and conservation advisory committee. Peg is on the activities committee and works as a Casa volunteer receptionist twice a month in the lobby plus continuing to make Prayer Squares for people who need them. She also made a Noah's Arc paper pieced baby quilt with 13 pairs of animals on it for the new great grandchild. December was so busy with concerts and other things that the Christmas cards never got on the schedule and so this is an early Easter missile.

In 2011 the third great grandchild, Kai James Clutter, was born on February 21st in Fort Collins, CO. Peg made him an applique space theme baby quilt. We are planning a big DO here at the Casa on Saturday, November 12 to celebrate the Life of Don Oliver, on reaching his 90th birthday. You are invited to join us. Please put the date on your calendar and let us know if you will be able to attend. Still working

out the details, but dinner with dancing is in the cards. Thanks for fun communication, this will tell you when Don's 90th Birthday is to be celebrated. We'd love to have you join us. I had a mini stroke the 25th of January and the doctor would rather I didn't travel out of town for awhile, actually I'm fine, but some times the change of medications is a trial. Hope you see spring flowers soon. God bless you - Love Don and Peg

2010 Branson Reunion Notes continued from page 3

Our other speaker, Joe Bryant, was a veteran who interviewed our airmen and told us how important it is for us to encourage them to record their stories.

The Keeter Center where our banquet was held, is at the College of the Ozarks, also known as HWU (Hard Work University). The college is supported by grants and endowments, and a work program is available for the students that allows them to get their college degree and graduate debt-free. One of the students spoke to us about its work program. The program began years ago with a dairy operation, baking and selling fruit cakes, and making jams and jellies. The Keeter Center is a beautiful log structure which

was constructed primarily by students, and which houses dining areas, a gift shop, and a museum which pays tribute to our armed services. Sarah Palin and Margaret Thatcher are among some of the dignitaries who have been guests of the college. The students prepared and served the dinner which was delicious and beautifully presented. This was an event to remember! Then to make it extra-special for us, our son, Richard Hatch, who had retired from the Air Force a few years ago, spoke to our group. He almost had his mother in tears. Yes, we are proud of him. And we are so glad that he and Donna were able to enjoy this reunion with us! It was wonderful to see all of our 13th AF friends again and we are certainly looking forward to the next one in Dayton!

MAILBAG



Dear Mr. Bonney,
 Enclosed is a check for \$35.00 for my husband's (Jim Berry's) dues for the 13th AF. I filled out a card for renewal since Jim wanted to keep Messina's articles. I always read the newsletter cover to cover to Jim since he has diabetes retinopathy and cannot see well. He especially enjoyed the article by the now deceased Mauro Messina about the rewriting of the Air Force history in the Dec. 2010 newsletter.
 He has always told the family that the 13th AF never received the credit they deserved in the South Pacific Air War. He will be 94 in March and has difficulty in getting around on account of his spinal stenosis. What

a joy it would be if the correct history of the South Pacific could be released so I could read it to him.
 Also enclosed is a brochure about a recently released book of the 31st squadron. I am reading this book to him, and he is really enjoying it. As I read the story told to men who were there in the war, it really comes alive and real to me.

Years ago we attended a 13th AF reunion in Missouri and had a great time. Jim is not able to attend them but both of us enjoy reading about the great times you have getting together.

Sincerely,
 Jackie Berry

NOTE received from John T. Godwin attached to his check for 2011 dues:

"I've been a member since the beginning. As long as I am living I will continue. I just turned 90 years young. As a veteran I was a member of one of WWII distinguished groups – South Pacific. My group received two Presidential Unit Citations for Service in the South West Pacific. I was a Bombardier-Navigator - 53 combat missions. Battle and Campaigns: Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal with 4 Bronze stars. Also two Air Medals.

I love the 13th Air Force!

Signed,
 John T. Godwin
 539 Siskin Circle, North Augusta, SC 29841
 (803) 279-7189

A Note From Ray Perkins

Comments from reunion coordinator regarding our recent reunion in Branson Missouri. I have commended the Stone Castle Hotel for the service that we received, we had the best hospitality room (and the biggest), they bent over backward to make sure we were comfortable and had everything we needed, their service was outstanding. Our bus driver for Graline was Vicky Miller who was very accommodating and gave us outstanding service.

The four shows we attended were all very good with "Noah" being voted the best. The banquet meal at College of the Ozarks was delicious and more than most of us could eat. The 50 shopping bags that Bob O'Brien had will probably come in handy with some areas doing away with plastic bags. I have the \$150.00 bottle of champagne that Bob O'Brien bought for the first active member that reaches the age of 100. It is probably impossible to come out in the black on expenses due to declining membership. This is the opinion of the undersigned, hope the members agree.

Raymond Perkins
 2010 Reunion Coordinator
 2012 President Elect



TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE...

DRINK TEA... and nourish life.

With the first sip, joy.

With the second sip, satisfaction

With the third sip, peace

With the fourth sip... a danish.



"IN JACKSON COUNTY, W. VA.....

Voting machines have actually changed votes, which would explain why candidate Error 404 Page Not Found is headed to the House of Representatives." – Stephen Colbert

THE LOCAL WEATHERMAN was wrong so often that his predictions had become a standing joke, much to the sensitive forcaster's annoyance. Finally in despair of ever living down his reputation he asked his company for a transfer.

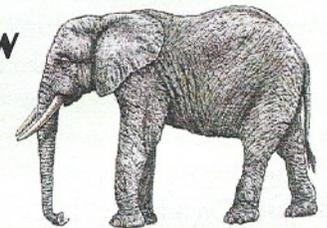
"Why do you want a transfer?" his boss asked.

"Well," the weatherman replied...

"The climate doesn't agree with me."

Elephant Stew

- 1 Medium Elephant
- 2 Rabbits (optional)
- Salt & Pepper



Cut elephant in bite-size pieces.

This should take about 2 months.

Add brown gravy to cover. Cook over kerosene fire – four weeks at 405.5 degrees. This will serve 3,800 people if servings are small.

Or to go far, add 2 rabbits... but do this only if necessary as most people do not like to find hare in their stew.

DID YOU HEAR the one about the ear of corn that went to a psychiatrist?

It needed shuck treatment!



A PASTOR was walking down the street when he noticed a boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street but the boy was small, and the doorbell was too high for him to reach. After watching the boy try repeatedly, the pastor went across the street, walked up behind the boy and, placing his hand on the boy's shoulder, leaned over and gave the doorbell a solid ring. Crouching down to the boy's level, the pastor smiled and asked, "And now what, my little man?" The boy replied, "Now we run!"

TEACH A CHILD to be polite and courteous, and when he grows up he'll never be able to merge his car onto a freeway.



TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE♦♦♦

DRINK TEA... and nourish life.

With the first sip, joy.

With the second sip, satisfaction

With the third sip, peace

With the fourth sip... a danish.



"IN JACKSON COUNTY, W. VA.....

Voting machines have actually changed votes, which would explain why candidate Error 404 Page Not Found is headed to the House of Representatives." – Stephen Colbert

THE LOCAL WEATHERMAN was wrong so often that his predictions had become a standing joke, much to the sensitive forcaster's annoyance. Finally in despair of ever living down his reputation he asked his company for a transfer.

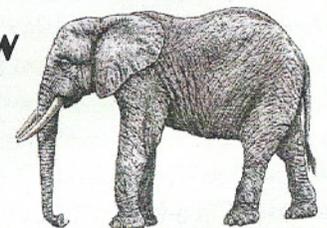
"Why do you want a transfer?" his boss asked.

"Well," the weatherman replied...

"The climate doesn't agree with me."

Elephant Stew

- 1 Medium Elephant
- 2 Rabbits (optional)
- Salt & Pepper



Cut elephant in bite-size pieces.

This should take about 2 months.

Add brown gravy to cover. Cook over kerosene fire – four weeks at 405.5 degrees. This will serve 3,800 people if servings are small.

Or to go far, add 2 rabbits... but do this only if necessary as most people do not like to find hare in their stew.

DID YOU HEAR the one about the ear of corn that went to a psychiatrist?

It needed shuck treatment!

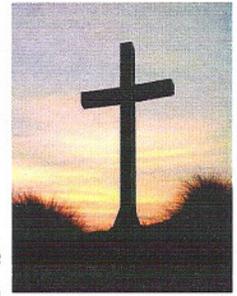


A PASTOR was walking down the street when he noticed a boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street but the boy was small, and the doorbell was too high for him to reach. After watching the boy try repeatedly, the pastor went across the street, walked up behind the boy and, placing his hand on the boy's shoulder, leaned over and gave the doorbell a solid ring. Crouching down to the boy's level, the pastor smiled and asked, "And now what, my little man?" The boy replied, "Now we run!"

TEACH A CHILD to be polite and courteous, and when he grows up he'll never be able to merge his car onto a freeway.



Gone But Not Forgotten



Ronald "Al" Wright

Pearl Harbor attack survivor Ronald "Al" Wright with a photograph of himself taken during World War II outside his home in Skiatook - December 4, 2003.

As he helped load up his wounded friends for emergency transport – the ones who hadn't been killed outright – Ronald "Al" Wright couldn't quite wrap his mind around all that had just happened. His ears were still ringing from the explosions, for one thing. But as the clamor began to subside, the Army Air Corps member realized exactly what he had to do.

Wright, a mechanic who during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 was stationed at an adjacent airfield, put in for transfer to a combat crew. "I wanted to be on the front line", the World War II veteran told the Tulsa World more than 60 years later. Wright's transfer request was granted. The longtime Skiatook resident was assigned to a B-17 bomber crew as a light engineer and for the rest of the war, he flew combat missions.

Later in life, remembering would become Al Wright's chief mission. As a member and one-time president of Tulsa's Last Man's Club, a group of area Pearl Harbor survivors, he met monthly with the others to do just that. More than 20 years ago, the group stashed away a bottle of wine. The plan is for the last remaining survivor to break it out when the time comes and toast the end of an era. "We all joke about wanting to inherit that wins," Al Wright said in a 2003 article. "But it will be a sad day for someone. We're more than buddies,

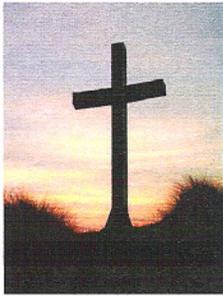
we're family because of what we experienced that day." Ronald Alvin "Al" Wright died Saturday at Claremore Veterans Center. He was 89. A graveside service was held Tuesday at Osage Gardens Cemetery in Skiatook. On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, when the infamous sneak attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii started, "It was chaos. Nobody really believed what was happening at first," Al Wright recalled. Wright ran into the Army airfield maintenance building to spread the word. But everyone thought he was joking. Then, the bombs started falling on the airfield. As the men took cover, many of them dived into pits that had been dug for a planned mess hall. The attack, which drew the U.S. into World War II, lasted 90 minutes. More than 2,400 Americans were killed, including many of Wright's friends. Afterward, one of his superiors told him to help take the wounded to a hospital in Honolulu. Wright spent the day going back and forth. Following his Army service - from 1939 to 1945, Al Wright came back to the Tulsa area to attend Spartan College of Aeronautics. He went on to work for American Airlines for 34 years. The Jenks native, who grew up in Denver, had a dry sense of humor and liked to kid and joke round, family members say, but he was a serious patriot and was proud of his war service. He sought out his fellow veterans and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. The Last Man's Club, which with Wright's death has nine remaining members, was very dear to him, his wife Betty Wright said. "It didn't matter how terrible he felt," she said. "He went to the monthly breakfasts and to any occasion that the group got together. It was really important to him."

Robert "Bob" W. Rowe

My father Robert Rowe was a member of the 13th, 5th Bomb, 23rd during WWII. He passed away February 21, 2011. He wrote and illustrated (he was an artist) a 20 page book about his experiences. If you would be interested I could send it to you in a word format or pdf format. He also painted several planes (Nose art)

on B-24s. He was an avid photographer and there are probably many pictures from the war. It will take me time to go through them but if they are of any interest I could send you an electronic file of them.

Thanks.
Robert S. "Scotty" Rowe



Gone But Not Forgotten, continued

Robert O'Brien

As many of you already know, Dad passed away peacefully on July 5th. After his car accident on April 28, we all went through a series of ups and downs as Dad tried his best to rally from a series of health issues - breathing, nutrition, blood pressure problems and delirium. As valiantly as he fought, and despite all your many prayers and visits, dad finally succumbed to his illness.

We all would like to remember Dad as he loved his life - a faithful and engaged Mason and Shriner, a steadfast

friend to the WWII 419th "Night Fighters" 13th "Jungle" Air Force Veterans Association, a lover of nature and all-things-rock-related through his association with the Colburn Museum and S.A.M.S., a travel lover crossing Canada by rail, and exploring Alaska by ship, and a loving owner to his Dachshund "George". Dad loved life, loved his friends and was happy to be alive in the Blue Ridge Mountains he loved so well. We will all miss his positive energy, countless jokes, laughter and love.

The family of Bob O'Brien

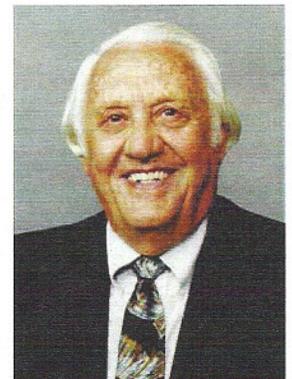
Arthur Russo

Arthur Russo, World War II Decorated Veteran. He passed away on November 24th, at his home in Union, NJ. Arthur was born in New York City to the late Ernest and Velia Navarra Russo and lived his early years in New York City and Phillipsburg, NJ. He resided in Union, NJ for the last 53 years. He dedicated himself endlessly to family, community and work. At the time of his death, Arthur was the Executive Director of the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors for the State of New Jersey. He held that position for the past 20 years. Arthur enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943 and proudly served his country during WWII in the South Pacific. Flying numerous combat missions for an elite bombing squadron, Arthur's B-24 bomber sustained severe damage during a bombing mission and crash landed. He was severely injured by enemy fire. Arthur luckily survived and was subsequently awarded with numerous medals, including the Purple Heart with Clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal.

Arthur was the beloved husband of Arlene Hockenjos Russo, the father of Lynne Russo Linale and the late Wayne Alan

Russo who died on September 11th in the World Trade Center. Arthur was actively involved with the families of the World Trade Center victims.

Arthur was devoted to his wife of 48 years, Arlene, his daughter, Lynne and son-in-law, Mario Linale, his granddaughter, Jordan Wayne, 8, and his 3 grandsons, Justin Wayne, 6 and twins Jesse Wayne and Jared Wayne, 2.



Arthur leaves his brother, Anthony Russo and sister-in-law, Ann Russo, sister-in-law, Janet Russo, and first cousins, John Russo, Alma Galletta, and Salvatore DeLuca. He was predeceased by his sister, Elvira Russo Stevens and brother, Raymond Russo. He also leaves behind a brother-in-law, Alan Hockenjos and his wife, Virginia Hockenjos, many cousins, nieces and nephews. Arthur relished in his role as family patriarch and family historian.



The Birth of the 13th AFVA *The following is a letter from 1990 describing our first Reunion.*

In the Fall of 1990, our first Jungle Air Force Association Reunion was held in Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Joe Cameron, the veteran who started the organization passed away shortly before the first meeting.

Friday we spent time getting acquainted. Many tears were shed, but shortly thereafter we all became special friends. Mack Williams and Don Paul, who worked side by side in the islands and each presumed the other to be dead were reunited with hugs and tears in the motel room, things such as this will never be forgotten, our membership total was 14.

Saturday we all toured the Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, and also spent a great deal of time in the interesting museum. Saturday evening (Art Hotler, the Gentleman who took

over for Joe Cameron after his death) our banquet was planned by Art Hotler and served at the motel where we were all staying. We had Kentucky Fried Chicken with all the fixings. Art made a delicious peach cobbler and it was topped with ice cream. We even had entertainment and that was provided by Hammie Hamiltons son Greg who put on a magic show for us.

This was our first and most memorable reunion and banquet and one that we will never forget. Mack and Madeline Williams of Ft. Worth Texas volunteered to host the 1991 reunion for the Group.

Also noted on the bottom of this letter was:
 Save Inn Motel – Vandalia, Ohio
Room Rates \$37.00

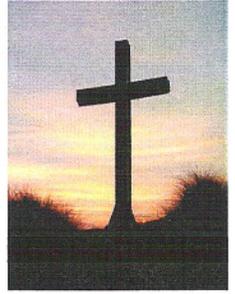


Gone But Not Forgotten, *continued***William J. Heck**

Cliff, just a note to let you know that my father Wilbur W. Heck served in the 13th AF, 18th FG, 44th FS for 3 and 1/2 years during WWII. He was enlisted and made the rank of TSgt, although when he got out he was a SSgt (That's another story ha!). He died in 1999 but told me many stories over the years he was alive. He came home with malaria and jungle rot but he loved the P-40s and especially the P-38s. He retired from Allison in Indianapolis.

I am a Navy Veteran having spent my active duty on submarines (Vietnam Era Cold War Vet), retiring from the reserves in 1996 with over 20 years in. I found a picture of the squadron taken on Guadalcanal in 1944 standing in front of a P-38. He is top row, last on the

right. He also was a guitar player and entertained his buddies by the hours. Maybe some of your guys remember him? He always talked about the "Old Major". Not sure who he was but do know that the Major went on to serve in the Korean conflict. He used to write my dad but all of a sudden the letters quit coming. He also talked about the pilot that had 20 kills and on his last mission turned around to take another pass at a Jap gun boat and was shot down. I belong to a submarine unit out of Indianapolis and some of those guys are WWII Vets, always enjoy hearing their stories too. Take care!
Bill Heck

**Clarence H. Burkhalter**

Clancy H. Burkhalter passed away May 2, 2007.
Sincerely, Anita Burkhalter

Charles H. Porter

Charles Porter died February 12, 2011 at age 95.
4312 S 31st St., Apt. 138, Temple, TX 76502

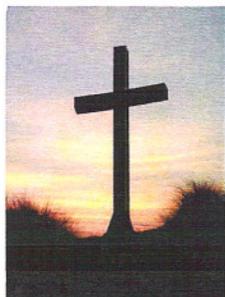
John C. Rodenburg

John Cordes Rodenburg, 89 of Lancaster, PA, passed away on Thursday, February 17, 2011. Born on Sept. 20, 1921 in Milwaukee, WI, he was the son of the late John Tietjen and Anna Cordes Rodenburg. He was the husband of Lois Holt Rodenburg, with whom he was married for 32 years.

John was a 1940 graduate of the Hill School in Pottstown, PA. He continued his education as an Engineering student at the Georgia Institute of Technology graduating in 1947. John postponed his education when he enlisted in the US Army Air Corps in 1942. He served in the South Pacific until 1945 and was a member of the 13th Air Force, attached to the 372nd squadron of the 307th Bomb Group. As the pilot of a B-24 Liberator, he achieved the rank of First Lieutenant; he had also piloted the B-17 Flying Fortress. The squadron flew regular missions from the island of Morotai to various targets in the South Pacific and was known as the "Long Rangers". His aircraft was shot down in January 1945 where the crew crash landed on an uncharted island.

He was declared missing in action and was rescued two weeks later. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart Medal and the Air Medal. John was a member of the Military Officers Association of America. After the war, he entered the paper business and was employed as a salesman and sales manager for over 30 years. With the St. Joe Paper company. He resided for most of his career in Rumson, NJ and retired in Lancaster, PA. In addition to his wife, John is survived by his son John C. II, married to Aleida S. Rodenburg of Lafayette, CA, his daughter Dale R. married to Edward Loeffler of Shelburne, VT, his stepchildren: R. Scott married to Mary Lu Coyle of Endicott, NY, Joan F. Coyle of Sacramento, CA. Patricia L. married to Robert Resel of Lancaster and Amy E. married to Carl Lee of Keller, TX; 16 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Susquehanna Association of the Blind and Vision Impaired, 244 N. Queen St., Lancaster, PA 17603. To send the family an online condolence, please visit: snyderfuneralhome.com

Gone But Not Forgotten, continued



Robert H. Perlman

My dad was Robert H. Pearlman and he often talked so highly of his days with the 13th Air Force. Sadly he passed away on December 25, 2010. for many years he resided in Northwest Florida and in 2003, he moved to Las Vegas to live with me. In August 2010, after old age began to take its toll, he moved into the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder

City, Nevada. His wife, Linda, passed away in April 2009. I told him I would let the veterans of the 13th Air Force know.

David Perlman
2830 Shannon Cove Dr.
Henderson, NV 89074

Leonard J. Daniels

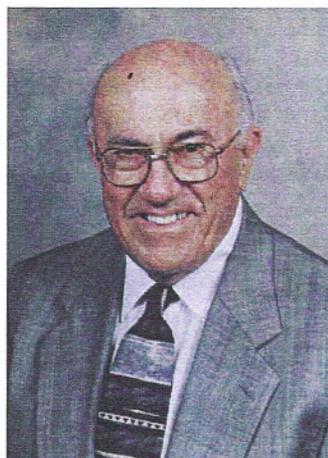
Leonard Daniels, age 87 of Detroit, MI died peacefully at home on July 9, 2010. Born in Portage, PA on October 13, 1922 son of the late Joseph and Anna Daniels. Fondly known as daddy, grandpa, great grampa, Danny and Len. He proudly served in the Pacific during WWII and was founding member of St. Christine Catholic Church. Len was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, companion

and friend to all he met. He was an active member of the Motor City Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 2265 for over 30 years and served as their Secretary. He was also active with the 13th "Jungle" Air Force Veteran's Association where he also serviced as secretary.

Nicholas J. (Nick) Marrone

Nicholas was born January 27, 1924 in Italy. He was 5 years old when his family traveled from Naples on the Italian passenger ship Conte Grande, arriving in New York in late summer just before the stock market crash of October 1929. Nick served three years in the South Pacific with the 13th "Jungle" Air Force in the 18th Fighter Group, 12th

Fighter Squadron (nicknamed the Dirty Dozen), he was a Tech Sergeant. Nick's favorite plane was the P-38 Lightning and his proudest feat was his units roll in shooting down the plane carrying Admiral Yamamoto, Japanese commander and master-mind of the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Lee Tipton

Lee was born in rural Conesville, Iowa, close to Muscatine, to Roy and Lura Tipton. They farmed with primitive conditions (no running water, electricity, or central heat) and walked behind implements pulled by horses. Father Roy designed clever methods to pump water and care for livestock. Lee and his sister, Luretta, were close companions and

home schooled by their mother. They frequently sang while Mother Lura played the piano, and once a month they traveled into town for church service potluck supper and a card party. Life was tough for the Tiptons, but neighbors were poor, too. Lee learned hard work, reliance on family and appreciation of animals and agriculture.



**13th "Jungle" Air Force Veterans Association
2011 Reunion Registration Form
Dayton, Ohio - October 5-8, 2011**

Member First Name _____ Last Name _____
PLEASE PRINT

Spouses Name (if attending) _____ 13th USAAF WWII Unit _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email address _____

OTHER GUEST(S) Use back of form if additional space is needed

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Nickname(s) for Badges: _____

ACTIVITY AND REGISTRATION FEES

Registration Fee (All Attendees) \$40.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____

Thursday

Carillon Park / Aviation Trail \$15.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____
(Lunch on your own at Café at Crillon)

Cedarville University Dinner & Play \$30.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____
____ Check here if you need Vegetarian

Friday

US Air Force Museum and IMAX Theater \$10.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____
(Lunch on your own at Valkyrie Café at Museum)

13th AFVA Reunion Banquet & Jazz Band \$35.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____
____ Prime Rib ____ Chicken ____ Salmon ____ Vegetarian

Saturday

Ladies Luncheon \$20.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____
____ Check here if you need Vegetarian

Buffet Banquet "Under the Wings" AF Museum ... \$35.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable to: 13th USAAF Veterans Association (13th USAAFV)

Mail this form & check to: Eileen Luck, 13th AFVA Bookkeeper - 145 Oakwood Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Please Register by Friday, September 16, 2011

Lodging: Holiday Inn Dayton/Fairborn I-675 • 2800 Presidential Drive, Fairborn, OH 45324 • Phone 937-426-7800 or 1-800-HOLIDAY

Special Rate: \$95/night with full, hot breakfast buffet included!

If you fly to the Dayton Airport, arrangements can be made with the Holiday Inn for pick up and return. If that is your plan, let us know below **but also make arrangements directly with Holiday Inn.**

Airline: _____ Flight # (into Dayton) _____

Arrival Day & Date _____ Time: _____

Departure Day & Date _____ Time: _____



13th "JUNGLE" AIR FORCE VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ RENEWAL

(Please PRINT clearly)

New () Renewal () () if renewing, please put year originally joined.

Date: _____ APPLICATION IS FOR MEMBER () ASSOCIATE ()

YOUR NAME: _____

SPOUSE (if applicable, if not please state so) _____

ADDRESS: _____ APT/SUITE/NO _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

PHONE (INCLUDE AREA CODE) _____

CELL _____ E-MAIL _____ FAX _____

UNIT(S) SERVED WITH? (Command, Group, Squadron, Avn Battallion, etc.)

DATES WITH THE 13th: From _____ 19 ____ to _____ 19 ____ RANK _____

WHERE? (base, island, etc.) _____

BIRTH DATE (Optional) _____

Other Information, comments, etc.: Use back of form if necessary _____

Membership dues are payable each January, or earlier, for the calendar year (January 1 thru December 31) Per vote at the 2002 Reunion. Membership dues are NOW \$35.00 PER YEAR for member or associate member. Any descendant, surviving spouse, or supporter shall be considered an "associate" member, and ALL are welcome to join! Dues cover newsletter, mailing, website maintenance, administrative expenses, memorials, and reunion committee expenses. We strive to notate your dues expiration date on the mailing labels for periodical newsletters, directory, or similar correspondence.

Mail completed application form with check or money order made payable to:

13TH AIRFORCE VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

c/o Eileen Luck, Bookkeeper
135 Oakwood Lane,
Phoenixville, PA 19460

OR

c/o Tom Bonney, Treasurer
1352 E. Berks St.
Philadelphia, PA 19125



I thought you would be interested in this clipping from the Effingham Daily News 7-11-09. It was in rebuttal of some letters from bleeding hearts that never served, condemning US, mainly President Truman, for dropping the Atomic Bombs. The brass had warned us to expect one million casualties if we invaded Japan. I have known Dane Guy through church groups since 1958. I never heard him mention anything of his service. After Army Cadre from Okinawa came in and trained us in the use of infantry weapons, BAR, bazooka, 60 mill mortars, 50 and 30 cal machine guns we obtained 12 1/2 tracks. When we first got to Clark AFB they were firing at planes landing and taking off. After we got the 12 tracks and weapon carriers with 30 cal machine guns we patrolled and were stationed around the landing strips. Things cooled down PDQ!

We have had enough snow and cold weather already in January to do me for the rest of the winter sure is a job taking care of livestock. Best to you all - Bruce

The Day The Bomb Dropped

Originally published in the Effingham Daily News

I have been reading with great interest the letters concerning the use of the atomic bombs to end the war with Japan. I spent the year of 1945 and part of 1946 as a member of the 20th Air Force, stationed on Tinian Island. I was the crew chief flight engineer on the B-29 Fortunes Folly, commanded by Capt. Dan Fortune. Our fleet of B-29s bombed Iwo Jima and Okinawa around the clock, day and night, for more than a month and we burned down half of Japan with jellied gasoline and white phosphorous.

A few months before the end of the war, shiploads of U.S. Navy Sea Bees and their equipment landed on Tinian. They built a hospital that covered over 100 acres. It was a typical Army hospital with one-story wooden buildings covered with tar paper and connected by wooden sidewalks. When it was finally finished, shiploads of the latest hospital equipment was brought in. Thousands and thousands of body bags were unloaded. Then hundreds of Army nurses came in, along with hundreds of doctors. All this was in preparation to take casualties from the invasion of Japan.

Then one evening as I was going from the flight line back to my tent, I noticed a lot of unusual activity around the B-29 Enola Gay. I knew Paul Tibbits, the commander of the Enola Gay, he was a friend of mine. So, I pulled my weapons carrier in and got out to talk to him and find out what was going on. They had the Enola Gay backed over a concrete pit and were winching a strange looking bomb up into one of the bomb bays. Paul wouldn't say much, just that he was going on a special mission. I knew something special was going on because there

were four to five men dressed in civilian clothes, and I hadn't seen anybody in civilian clothes in more than a year. I found out later they were scientists.

I went to my tent and didn't think anymore about it. The next morning, the base was buzzing with the news the Enola Gay had dropped a bomb that destroyed a whole city. Everybody was celebrating, then, another bomb was dropped and the war was over.

The big new hospital was never used. The doctors and nurses didn't treat a single casualty, and best of all, not one body bag was used.

So, the question before President Harry S. Truman was do you want to kill thousands of Japanese with a couple of bombs or do you want to kill thousands of the U.S. military by invading Japan. No brainer! Any sane American would have made the same decision.

I am proud to have served my country with President Truman as my commander and chief. He will go down in history as one of the greatest presidents of all time, along with Thomas Jefferson and Franklin Roosevelt.

The Japanese asked for it at Pearl Harbor. They got it at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

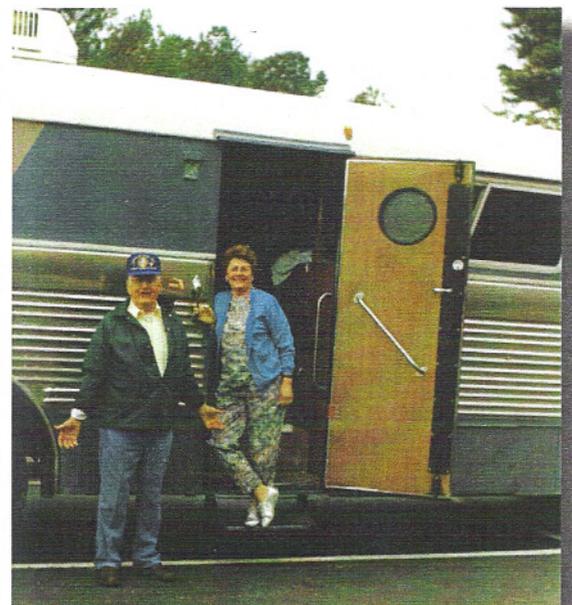
Been there, done that.

Dane H. Guy
24th Bomb Squadron
Tinian Island 1945-46
LaCiede



The 13th Air Force Veterans Association
7049 W. Illinois St.
Ludington, MI 49431

PreSrtStd
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ludington, MI
Permit No. 50



Top Left: Photographer at far right lining men up for their picture.

Top Right: Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Johnson, S. Carolina - 1992.

Left: Passengers getting ready to board "The Bus". Yes we all rode "The Bus" to eat, and with a map "Bruce" got us back to the hotel safe and sound.

