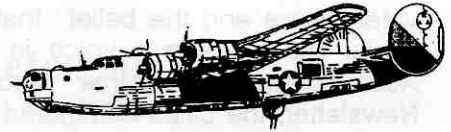


"Late Pass!"



THE CALL SIGN FOR GROTTAGLIE TOWER --

449th "FLYING HORSEMEN"

JULY 2007 ISSUE

449TH BOMB GROUP ASSN.

-16th POST-REUNION REVIEW

SUCCESS IN JACKSONVILLE

By all standards, the 16th Reunion held January 18-22, 2006 was a great success. There were seventy-three 449th Members originally registered with an average of two attendees per registrations. Eight members cancelled before the meeting for various reasons. Nine of the members who attended indicated they have been to all 16 Reunions, and one member, Clyde Wilhoit has attended all but one Reunion. Jim Miller, our President Emeritus, had attended all previous Reunions but had to cancel this one at the last moment for health reasons.

There were 110 attendees at the Get Acquainted Party, 141 at the Squadron Dinners, 114 at the Memorial Breakfast and 121 at the Reunion Banquet. We were privileged to have as guest speaker at the Reunion Banquet, Lt. General Forrest McCartney, USAF (Ret) who spoke to the group on the present and future US Space Program. General McCartney's talk was thoroughly enjoyed by the Group as exemplified by their comments and applause. (See Floyd Trogdon's letter to General McCartney thanking him for being with us and for his outstanding presentation.) We were also fortunate to have the services of the Sandalwood High School (Jacksonville, FL) Air Force Junior ROTC to perform flag ceremonies at both the Memorial Breakfast and Reunion Banquet. (See thank-you letter to Duval County elsewhere in this publication.)

16 Reunions

John Aulner
Emil Brenckman
Charles F. Gran
Patricia Latta
Paul Farrell
Howard Feldman
Lee Kenney
Edward J. Sass
Frank Shoaf

15 Reunions

Clyde Wilhoit

GREETINGS TO 449TH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FROM THE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

I am honored to have been elected to carry on the President's duties and mindful of the *big shoes* that I will have to fill. Not enough can be said about the fantastic job that Jim Miller has done as our President over the many years since the untimely death of our first President, Frank Elliott. In recognition of Jim Miller's outstanding contributions and the acknowledgment that he is a true *449th Treasure*, the Association elected him President Emeritus. In due course the Association will further recognize Jim's outstanding contributions. I am fortunate and extremely pleased that I will have Jim's wise counsel available when I need it, which will be often.

This is our first LatePass News Letter since the Jacksonville Reunion and the first to have been spearheaded by the 2ND Generation of 449ers. I am really pleased and impressed with the fact that many of the sons and daughters of 449th members took the initiative to organize themselves as *the 2ND Generation*, and volunteered to take over many of the duties that Board Members and others have been carrying out. We have accepted their proposal and the 2ND Generation is handling much of the work on this LatePass, have been working on cleaning up our data base of names and addresses and have already started assisting in the planning of the next Reunion. As many of you may know, at the Business meeting in Jacksonville, the Membership voted to continue with planning for another Reunion in the fall of 2008. Four west-of-the-Mississippi cities were nominated but a decision was not made in consideration of the small number of

voters there and the belief that many of you would like to have a voice in that decision. Accordingly, in another section of this Newsletter, the cities nominated are described along with some pertinent facts about their potential as reunion sites. So please pay attention to that article and get your vote for your preferred location for the next Reunion in to our Secretary, Ray Logies.

At the Business meeting, the Membership elected the following slate of officers to serve until the next Reunion: President Emeritus, Jim Miller; President, Floyd Trogdon; Vice President, Lee Kenney; Secretary, Ray Logies; Treasurer, Al Allen. John and Jean Aulner agreed to continue to manage the 449th PX and Memorabilia operation and Harry Snyder continues to serve as Association Chaplain.

-- Floyd Trogdon, President 449thBGA

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT EMERITUS JIM MILLER

By way of Secretary Ray Logies — Jim sends his greetings to all and thanks all the members for continuing the reunions, and hopes there will be one more, that he can attend.

Feel free to write him:

James Miller
125 Forest Lake Drive
Simpsonville, SC 29681-5459

449th JACKSONVILLE REUNION MEMORIES

To honor both my mother and my father (SSgt. Jesse W. Priest) and the other men and women who were a part of the WWII experience, I became an honorary member of the 449th three years ago. At my first reunion in Chattanooga, I was very pleased to meet Einar O. Niklason, the engineer and good friend of dad's, who shared those fifty missions on "Twinkletoes." Rick Niklason, his son, and I had become connected through Norfield Publishing via the internet. Jim Miller was particularly helpful in encouraging my membership.

We met again in St. Louis and added more good

experiences to our memories.

Due to health reasons, Einar could not attend this year, nor could Phyllis, his wonderful wife. Luckily, though, his son Rick came. It was not without sadness, though, that I approached Jacksonville, knowing that I would not be able to see the only crew member of "Twinkletoes" whom I'd met.

When I arrived in Jacksonville quite late on Thursday evening, I hurried down to the Hospitality Room, thinking everyone would certainly be gone by 9:45. Luckily, I found one table of veterans, some with their wives, still there. The joy of reunion started there for me, and it did not stop until I said my last goodbye.

I was fortunate to meet Chuck LaMarca, a native Sicilian, Harvey Gann and Evelyn, and Cliff Denny and Boots. Both Chuck and Harvey were POW's, captured in East Prussia. As he laughed, Chuck told the story of escaping three times from the Italian camp (the irony of that) only to be captured and returned the same number of times. Harvey Gann related that his book, Escape, I Must, is full of similar POW experiences. The good cheer, the friendship, and especially the laughter all of these new friends shared with me was assurance enough that my trip would be just wonderful.

After saying our goodnights, I wandered into the lobby and joined Walter Bynum (719th), Jim Coulton (718th-Hon.), and Carol and Dan Livingston (718th-Hon.). Walt served with the 1629 Ordnance, Supply, and Maintenance Company that was attached to the Bomber Group. His role was to check the bombs and make the repairs needed to insure bomb-readiness. Serving from January, 1944, through May 8, 1945, Walt said "my fingerprints were on each and every 500 pound bomb dropped." As to the success of the 449th, Walt commented: "We couldn't have dug in any deeper with a pickaxe and a shovel." Judy, his first daughter, was two years old before he was able to get back home.

Sometime around 1:00 A.M. Friday morning, Rick Niklason arrived from Minnesota. We took the time, despite the hour, to catch up on family events.

At the impressive Memorial Breakfast, meeting Morris Coffee and his wife Rachel, as well as Reese and Marie Mathieu, was a real treat, especially since I discovered Morris was a fellow Master Gardener from my area.

Meeting our veterans, their wives, and families kept my spirits high the entire trip. Although several members of our group could not attend this year, they were present in our thoughts and prayers. Our time together will remain a treasured memory.

-Shirley Priest



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND AIR FORCES (USCBAF)
SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA

2 March 2007

Lieutenant General Gary L. North
Commander, United States Central Command Air Forces
524 Shaw Drive, Suite 200
Shaw AFB SC 29152

449th Bomb Group Association
125 Forest Lake Drive
Simpsonville SC 29681

Dear Members of the 449th Bomb Group Association

I heard that the 449th Bomb Group recently had an outstanding reunion celebration. The Flying Horsemen stand as a distinguished unit for their actions of flying 254 combat missions against some of the most heavily defended targets in the Balkans, the Mediterranean, France, and Central Europe. For your actions and valor, I salute you.

Under my command now, I have the Legacy of the history you have made in the 449th Air Expeditionary Group located at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. The 449th AEG is an important unit in the Central Command Air Forces as it is our only unit dedicated to support operations in the Horn of Africa. In reading the newspapers and watching the news of late, I'm sure you have seen this area of the world is still important from a strategic point of view to the United States. The men and women of the 449th AEG are out there on the front lines winning hearts and minds. You can be especially proud of their mission and that they are winning new praise and honors for colors of the unit you started.

All of us in uniform today have a debt to you who saved liberty during the dark days of the World War II and we are paying that debt in fighting this Long War on Terrorism. Mark my words we are doing a lot better than the press may tell you and we will win this battle and pass on freedom and security to our children and grandchildren the way you did for us.

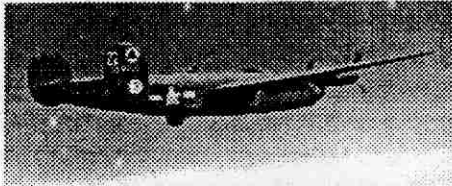
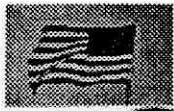
In celebration of your reunion and your time of remembrance, please know that my heart and those of the Airmen in the 449th AEG are with you every day.

Sincerely

GARY L. NORTH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander

"LATE PASS!", a publication of
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Please send your stories, photos, Letters to the Editor,
Poems, Cartoons, Jokes, etc. for 'LATE PASS' or call him.

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ITEMS FOR SALE will return in the next issue of *LATE PASS*.

Heroes Lost since our last writing:

Wallace Brubeck
David A. Catogni
John J. Esposito
Dora Marie Ecki
Leon B. Evans
Stanley C. Firth
Ira M. Gray
Vera M. Helldorfer
Lavelle Henley

Leonard D Hill
Ruth E. Hinds
Laura A. Howe
Ernest Hughes
Orpha S. Jimenez
Darlene M. Jungling
Clifford A. Kirschler
Faithe O. Leasia
Kenneth A. Leonardi

Dominic Lombardelli
Calvin S. Martin
Miles Masterson
Richard C. McLean
Rodger Meek
Raymond J. Meisekothen
Palmer D. Miller
Windle P. Morrison
Robert H. Mucha

Paul R. Nugent
Paul C. Reinhard
Donald E. Shuey
Clarence O. Simpson
Mary Sullivan
Kenneth E. Vore
Clifton L. White
Sidney L. Wray