



HERITAGE HERALD

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Leland Walzel... Fate, Circumstances or Just Plain Bad Luck

by Vic Walzel, submitted by Evan Thomas

My brother was KIA on his 25th mission on 6 March 1944 over Berlin. According to the navigator, who survived along with the two waist gunners, my brother



1st Lt. Leland Walzel, 93rd
BG. Courtesy of Pinterest.

was not hurt when they took a direct hit from flak. The hit on the inboard engine on the pilot's side caused the prop to spin back through the cockpit and evidently killed the pilot. The co-pilot said, "I've got it" and must have given the bail-out call. The navigator, up in the nose with my brother and a nose gunner, bailed out and said

when he left the ship, my brother was trying to help the gunner out of the turret.

The fate part now comes into the picture. There had never been a nose gunner on any of my brother's previous 24 missions. He manned the guns there himself when necessary. But there was an 11th man on the crew that day. The loading list for the mission doesn't include this man nor do any of the other crews on the list show 11 men. He was not even included on the MACR until later. In all likelihood, they had never known each other prior to the day of the mission. I have 17 of the loading lists for my brother's missions and never saw this man's name on any of the crews. My brother was flying that day with a crew that he had flown one mission with a couple of days earlier. This was a very experienced crew with 5 or 6 of them

on their 25th mission and the rest with more than 20. My brother had missed several missions due to being hospitalized with tonsillitis, or he would have already finished his required 25 with his regular crew, so he shouldn't have even been involved that day. The navigator's testimony, on the MACR, to my sister-in-law in a letter, and to me personally on the telephone, was that, in his opinion, my brother would have been able to get out, had he not chosen to attempt to save this gunner by helping him out of the turret. I have always wondered why the extra man was even on the plane.

Eleven man crews were highly unusual, unless it was for photographic purposes or some other specific reason, but not as a nose gunner. You can call it fate, circumstances or bad luck: the result was that my brother died that day doing something that makes me very proud, trying to save another man's life at the cost of his own. Many things could have happened had he been able to get out of the plane, and any of them could have ended in his death; but it has always nagged at me that this man was in a place he normally would not have been and it put my brother in the position of making a choice to help him or save his own life. All of these men are heroes in my eyes and I thank God that they did what they did to preserve our freedom. I can only think that it would have turned out differently if that one extra man had not been in the nose that day.

Heritage League & the 8th Air Force HS Reunion, Oct. 10-14, 2018

Register NOW & Mark Your Calendar. Details on pgs. 13-17

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,



For those of you who live out in the desert Southwest like I do, looks like Spring has come and gone as we are about to experience temperatures approaching triple digits. Weather projections for this part of our country will be record setting temperatures and very little rain. If you've never experienced getting into your car after work where the inside temperature was approaching 150 degrees, then count yourself lucky.

Projects within the Heritage League are starting to heat up as well.

- On our website, we have the information regarding our 2018 reunion in Dayton, Ohio along with the 8th Air Force Historical Society.
- Planning is underway for the Heritage League's 2019 Reunion to be held in Norwich, England. More information will be forthcoming in future Heralds and on our Heritage League's website.
- A once, very popular forum/message board known as "ArmyAirForce.com" has shut down after 20 years of service. The Heritage League has requested and been given a copy of the material for restoration. We are currently looking for volunteers who have experience in MySQL and/or Microsoft MS SQL who would like to assist with this endeavor. For more info, see Brian Mahoney's column on page 19.
- Our Mighty D8a (pronounced Data) project is progressing slowly as we want to make sure that when we start pouring information into our structure, we have 'good' data to input. We're looking into automated tools so we can tell John Smith with the 491st Bomb Group is different from the John Smith assigned to the 467th Bomb Group.

I would encourage any of our readers or viewers to consider being a volunteer for the Heritage League. We have a fillable form on the website with information about areas where we could use some help (<http://heritageleague.org/volunteers.html>).

Michael S. Simpson, President
Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF)

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MAY WE NEVER FORGET !

Using Social Media to Promote Nextgen Interest in the Herigage League Mission
by The Herald Staff



Social Media Pro, Kelly Stone

The Executive Committee has approved a bold, new social media advertising project aimed at bringing younger adults into the Heritage League events and leadership. “May We Never Forget” is one theme that is being considered for this project.

A month-long project is being created and implemented by Kelly Stone, an award-winning social media pro from Chicago, who is donating her time, and paying for all of the advertising costs. A few weeks ago Kelly was at a conference in Washington, DC following a nationwide competition hosted by the PR News. Stone was honored as the “Communicator of the Year” for Non-Profits, won first place in Best Marketing Campaign, and also garnered an Honorable Mention for Best Website.

Art Peterson, League vice-president and board member, said bringing in younger adults is critical to maintaining the mission of the League and preserving it for future generations. Noting his own age, 74, Peterson said, “When our generation rides off into the sunset, we want to make sure that the League doesn’t just fade away. We need to find a way to bring younger adults in, on an ongoing basis. Social media may be the key to achieving that goal. I am confident that Kelly’s project will determine how effective advertising in social media would be for us.”

Peterson had contacted several media professionals, asking for a list of suggestions for what the board could do to increase involvement of younger adults. Stone went far beyond that, responding with a proposal for the month-long advertising project. She made a presentation for her proposed project at the April 5 meeting of the Heritage League board, detailing the goals, what would be done, and how the results would be compiled. Following a lengthy question and answer session, board member Brian Mahoney made a motion to approve the proposal, and that was unanimously approved.

Stone will target ads on social media such as Facebook, focusing on persons aged 35-50, veterans

and their families, and those interested in military history and the History Channel. Those filters create a target audience of 230,000 people across the US. In the first few weeks we will try several options to determine which is the most effective, and the latter weeks will put the best-performers into widespread action.

Ads will aim to connect interested persons with the League’s Facebook page and website. Images including WWII vintage photos and current military photos will try to capture the attention of viewers. “We will test messaging to determine the most effective strategy for bringing in members, and hope to welcome a few new faces with these techniques.”

The average attention span is seven seconds, Kelly said, and the trick is to quickly capture a person’s interest. The average social media user scrolls through approximately 300 feet of content a day—that’s a lot of noise that you need to cut through. We need to learn what messages connect with this target audience.

“Social media has transformed the way people conduct nearly every facet of their lives. With this, membership-based organizations are evolving to fit into this new communication structure,” Stone said. “Social media empower organizations to communicate directly with their members, the media, and new potential members in ways that didn’t exist even five years ago. The question is no longer if you use social media, but how well you use it. It is a pay-to-play game now. The greatest thing about social media is you can review large-scale focus groups at a very low cost.”

Advertising will “rally around” League events like the annual conventions, Kelly said. “I’ll run this, so it won’t interfere with your current website.” “At the end of the month, we should have identified a potential group who we can reach out to, as well as insight as to how to proceed,” Stone said. The timetable calls for approximately one month of advertising, followed by some time to compile and review results, and prepare recommendations for the League board.

Stone has also offered to help train a replacement to continue the social media advertising, either as an ongoing or occasional basis, if the board so chooses. The board is starting a search for potential volunteers to oversee social media advertising.

(continued on page 5)



Heritage League's Volunteer Program

MISSION BRIEFING

by Chris Clark, Program Protégé &
Brian Mahoney, VP for Volunteers

We now have a program in place to 'harvest' everyone's 'volunteer profile' as well as 'task descriptions' from the Executive Committee's current wish list, and quickly see good matches. Our FileMaker database holds these two types of information—available volunteers, and specific desired tasks. We want to apply your interests and energies to specific work that increases our mission fulfillment.

Thank you to those who have already registered with us as available volunteers! If you have not done so, please do take ten minutes to fill out the questionnaire at <http://www.heritageleague.org/volunteers.html>. It will let us match you to practical tasks that fulfill the Heritage League mission.

Some volunteers will come forward with well-formed ideas for a project, too, and our job will be to fit these into the priorities of The League and give you, the member-volunteer, a meaningful and positive experience.

For the many of you who are drawn to particular defined tasks or roles, this regular column will always feature a few timely 'wish list' items. Here are a few current ones:

- Social Media coordinator to implement new program
- Database Builder supporting the ArmyAirForces.com project
- Links Manager, to keep our webpage and "WebpagesWeWike" (Herald column) current
- Photo Editor for The Heritage Herald
- Text Editor for The Heritage Herald
- Team Leaders and Members for our Memorial Flowers Program
- Mighty D8a Team Members (project to present comprehensive 8th AF operational data)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT...

HERITAGE LEAGUE TRIP TO NORWICH, ENGLAND, June 8-15, 2019.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. The Heritage League Executive Board is pleased to announce that we will have our 2019 Heritage League convention in Norwich England next year. We are excited to be revisiting Norwich to see our many British supporters and friends, visit the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library; and hopefully visit a select airbase and meet with a 2nd AD Trust Governor. Stay tuned for our future communications once we have all the details worked out. Check our website, www.heritageleague.org. We hope you can join us on this exhilarating and historical adventure.

Shopping Alert



The Heritage League is participating in the Amazon Smile program. The idea is simple: you shop AmazonSmile and

they donate a portion of the proceeds to the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division—USAAF.

Here is how it works: visit <http://smile.amazon.com>. Log in with your Amazon account username and password. If you don't have an account, create one.

Select the (charity) Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division—USAAF.

In the future, whenever you shop Amazon, shop smile.amazon.com, the Heritage League (name) will be on the top.

Best part—every eligible purchase is a donation. It's easy and we all win. Thanks for the support.

We appreciate the generous gifts from members inspired by an individual to whom we are all connected. We wish to thank members who have given the Heritage League recent contributions as follows:

IN HONOR OF

<i>Claire Biel</i>	(Albert H. Biel)
<i>James Birmingham</i>	(Robert Birmingham)
<i>Shary Whalen</i>	(Robert Birmingham)
<i>Sue Christle</i>	(Burton Madison)
<i>Patricia Merrifield</i>	(George Michel)

<i>Harry Frederick Riddle</i>	(Andrea Hilliard)
<i>J. Audley Risley</i>	(Susan Risley)
<i>Gale M. Rucker, SSGT, 491st BG</i>	(Stephen Rucker)
<i>Richard M Sharp, 458th</i>	(Sally Reilly)
<i>George W. Smith</i>	(April Reed)
<i>Col. William R. Smith</i>	(Constance Heffner)
<i>Sidney Stein</i>	(Sidney Stein)
<i>Jack Stevens</i>	(Pamela Stevens)
<i>Stanley Stupski</i>	(Cathy Stupski)
<i>J. Fred Thomas</i>	(Terry Johnson)
<i>David Tuckwiller</i>	(Carol Tuckwiller)

IN MEMORY OF

<i>James Arthur Adovasio</i>	(Jim Adovasio)
<i>Nona Allen</i>	(Russell Neatrou)
<i>Franklyn Bachman</i>	(Lenore Bachman)
<i>Francis Brimingham</i>	(Karen Comia)
<i>Francis Birmingham</i>	(Barb Figueroa)
<i>Francis P. Birmingham</i>	(Hailey Meier)
<i>Francis Birmingham</i>	(Shary Whalen)
<i>William L. Brooks</i>	(Margaret Calderalo)
<i>Frederick H. Bromm</i>	(Jacque Bromm)
<i>Alfred F. Brunner</i>	(Patricia Botic)
<i>Vito Calderalo</i>	(Margaret Calderalo)
<i>Clarence N. Chamberlain</i>	(Dana Chamberlain)
<i>S/Sgt. Charles Franklin Clark</i>	(Chris Clark)
<i>William Croft, Jr.</i>	(Carolyn Wagner)
<i>Col. Dario de Julio</i>	(Diane de Julio)
<i>Ralph and Rachel Dimick</i>	(Anna Dimick)
<i>Francis Di Mola</i>	(Jennifer Di Mola)
<i>Robert J. Drummond</i>	(Joseph Drummond)
<i>Jack B. Dyson, Sr.</i>	(Debbie Duke)
<i>Bradford Easton and Bruce Jones</i>	(William Long)
<i>Amisa Gilpatrick</i>	(Rory Gilpatrick)
<i>2nd Lt. Marion Eugene Gore, 700BS, 445th BG</i>	(Jerry Gore)
<i>Royal D Grumbach</i>	(Paul Grumbach)
<i>Robert R. Harvey</i>	(Dorothy Harvey)
<i>Paul Harwood</i>	(Richard Harwood)
<i>Col. James H. Isbell, 458th</i>	(Charles Booth)
<i>1st Lt. Robert L. Jones</i>	(Jan Jones)
<i>E. Bud Koorndyk and Vince Lozowiki</i>	(Allan Hallett)
<i>Frank & Helen Koza</i>	(Susan Scavone)
<i>Oak Mackey</i>	(Randall Mackey)
<i>Carl and Elizabeth Marino</i>	(Diane Marino)
<i>Stanley L. Marr</i>	(John Marr)
<i>Edward McCormack, 467th</i>	(John Golden)
<i>Francisco Mercado, 491st BG</i>	(David Mercado)
<i>2nd Lt. Elmer R. Morgan</i>	(Russell Morgan)
<i>Dean Moyer</i>	(Barbara Coverdale)
<i>John Nacey</i>	(Susan Nacey)
<i>Thomas O'Neill, 445th BG</i>	(Anne O'Neill)
<i>Carl D Peterson</i>	(Robert Hammond)
<i>S/Sgt. Robert E. Peterson, Sr.</i>	(Arthur Peterson)
<i>Russell C. Philpott</i>	(Janet Leavitt)
<i>1st Lt. Arnold A Piskin</i>	(Brenda Piskin)

—Folded Wings—

<i>Richard Sharp</i>	3/15/15	458 th
<i>Ernest Brown</i>	3/16/16	44 th
<i>Lowden Heller</i>	5/28/16	467 th
<i>Thomas Miller</i>	12/12/16	448 th
<i>Calvin Criswell</i>	1/4/17	458 th
<i>James Conley</i>	3/26/17	392 nd
<i>Ellis Fullwiller</i>	5/26/17	93 rd
<i>John J. Hogan</i>	7/17/17	492 nd
<i>E. Bud Koorndyk</i>	7/24/17	389 th
<i>Dale VanBlair</i>	9/15/17	398 th /448 th
<i>Robert Satter</i>	10/26/17	453 rd
<i>Robert Swift</i>	10/27/17	458 th
<i>Sidney Stein</i>	12/5/17	93 rd
<i>Robert Schauseil</i>	12/13/17	458 th
<i>William Dowden</i>	12/20/17	389 th
<i>Robert Lehnhausen</i>	3/5/18	44 th
<i>Ralph Lynn</i>	3/16/18	466 th

MAY WE NEVER FORGET !

(continued from page 3)

Why is Stone donating her time and money to the Herald League for this project? She refers back to earlier days, when she was an intern at the daily newspaper where Peterson was a reporter and was for a time, her mentor. She attributes a significant part of her success to his mentoring and career recommendations. "Consider this a one-time donation to a debt owed," she said with a smile.

Stone and her husband Brent are parents of two young children. They are also marathon runners and iron man competitors.

A Short Memoir of an A/C Mechanic

By Bill Woods, 735th BS, 453rd BG

A Trip Down Memory Lane. You can call it a case of severe nostalgia, reminiscence of past good times or simply a fondness for lasting memories. Let's take a look from our Heritage Herald Issue 51.

2AD combat vets have consistently called out the great contribution of the ground crew men. Irene Hurner received back issues of the 453rd newsletter from Aldo Ricci and called this one from March of 1996, to our attention. -Eds.

I thought the air crews would like to read about the daily routine of an aircraft mechanic and his responsibilities in keeping the air crew's plane in A-1 flying condition. I was attached to the 453rd Bomb Group, 735th Bomb Squadron and assigned to crew chief Joe Miele's crew which consisted of assistant crew chief Lee Quesnel, Frank Mitchell, and me. The four of us serviced and maintained four Liberators in the year and a half that we were at Old Buckenham. The first two planes were lost to battle damage with one of the plane's crew being able to fly their plane safely to Sweden.

Our most notable aircraft was a B-24H named "Hattiebelle" after the wife of a pilot from Mississippi. The flight crews that flew her never once had to abort a mission because of mechanical failure. It flew 106 missions and over 1,000 hours of flight time before it was retired from active service. Because of this record, our crew chief, Joe Miele received the bronze star. He was a top-notch crew chief and the three of us admired him and worked hard for him. When "Hattiebelle" was retired, in its place we received as our next and last plane a brand new B-24M that would never see combat. Interestingly enough, previous to "Hattiebelle" we had a B-24D ship which we dubbed "Inspector Squawk" with a painting of a parrot with the title on the pilot's side of the plane. Our crew had to work like the devil to avoid any "gigs" that the inspector would find on inspection of the plane, but the plane flew its missions until it was downed over the continent.

Generally, one of us was always available to the air- plane. We would each take our turn every fourth day. Before I went out to the airplane for the night alert, I always ended up at the mess hall for a second dinner and, if there was "army stew" that evening, my night watch was complete. I always pigged out with that meal. I loved it.

After checking out the plane visually, the first thing on the agenda was to preflight the engines. I can remember the first time that I sat in the pilot's seat and started up the engines; it was a big thrill for me. After finishing basic training in the army at Ft Belvoir, VA, I applied for Air Force Cadets and was accepted for what I had hoped was to be a pilot. They assigned me to the 60th College Training Detachment at the University of Pittsburgh where...I got 10 hours of flight time

before it was discovered that I had astigmatism in both eyes and I was washed out. It was a big disappointment in my young life, but here I was sitting in the pilot's seat with the aircraft in my control. After that first time, it became routine to run the engines through their paces. You could never be careless when you have 10 men depending upon you and your team to get them in the air and back home safely.

An excellent example of problem solving occurred one early morning as I was preflighting the engines and I revved them up, checking the engine's instruments. I detected a noticeable drop in the tachometer instrument reading in No. 4 engine. It was not acceptable in my judgment and I had to make a decision as to how to solve the problem. I could replace the magneto if it was faulty, or it could more than likely be one or more spark plugs that could be bad. Time could be a factor, so I decided to do the hardest first and that was to change all of the spark plugs in the engine. There would be plenty of time to replace the magneto because it was easily accessible for replacement. So, with a flashlight for light, for the next two hours or so I worked my head off, hoping and praying that there would not be a seized plug. Fortunately, I was able to replace all of them without any problem. Even our engineering officer in his Jeep stopped by to find out what my problem was. I told him of the problem and he was satisfied with my actions. A second preflight of the engines proved successful and the crew made their mission for the day.

After the preflight was acceptable, I usually ended up in the squadron engineering office on the line or, if the night was beautiful, I'd just sit in the pilot's seat and sometimes turn on the radio to listen for anything interesting until the armament crews arrived to service their end of the plane. It wasn't long before we got word of the up and coming mission and soon the gas truck came and I topped off the auxiliary and main gas tanks. Before long the quarter-ton truck arrived with the flight crew. As the time for the mission approached, Joe, Lee, and Frank arrived. It was always exciting to watch as the planes taxied out to the taxi strip and into position and to watch them roar down the runway and lift off into the "wild blue yonder." Now I could go to breakfast and hit the sack. I'd be off duty for the remainder of the

day. Generally, we'd cat nap and you'd see all four of us out at the hardstand watching for our plane as the group came back from its mission.

There were times when I took advantage of the day off and headed for Norwich to spend the day doing the town, take in a movie or browse through the stores, and finally queuing up

for hot "fish and chips" wrapped in newspaper before going back to the base on the liberty run. A couple of times I took the train back to Attleborough which was always interesting with all the GIs, Tommys, and a few WAFs (British and American) on board the train singing the ever popular "Roll Me Over" and other ditties as they headed back to their bases. They

were fun to listen to. I can recall one fall evening getting off at the train station and walking up the road to see where you were going and as I passed this grove of trees, I heard the hooting of an owl. That made the hair on the back of my neck stand up and sent chills through me. I quickened my pace back to the base. England was not a disappointment if you had ever seen a Basil Rathbone Sherlock Holmes movie; your imagination can run away on you.

When our plane taxied into position and came to a stop at our hardstand, and we had chocked the wheels, we looked the plane over for damage and began servicing it while Joe checked over the flight log with the pilot and flight engineer for any mechanical problem. The plane was ours now. If there 25, 50 or 100 hour inspections due, we did them before the next mission, plus servicing the plane. We were an excellent maintenance crew and we took our work seriously. We worked on the plane until it was ready for flight no matter how long it took.

It may sound kind of corny to some people who had never gone through this, but we mechanics did get a close attachment to the flight crews who flew our plane. A good example as far as our crew was concerned was Lt. Fignolio's crew. It made its first mission with "Hattiebelle" and completed their last missions with her with nary a scratch on her.

We were happy to see them group around "Hattiebelle" to have their picture taken after they came "home" safely from their last mission. Soon they would be homeward bound for the States.

What did we do when the planes sometimes would be gone from four to eight hours at a stretch? I remember

a beautiful summer day when four of us decided to take a walk down the country lanes off base. We went through the hedge rows until we came to a paved road. We strolled up the road, mind you, in our fatigues, stopping to pick berries along the way and passing quaint little fenced-in cottages with their flower gardens. It was like out of a movie, but it was real. Rural England

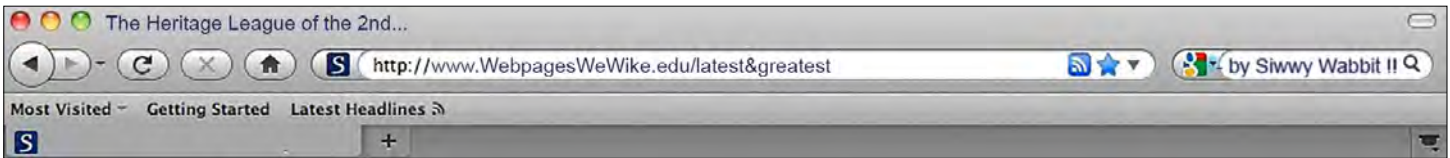


Hattiebelle's ground crew: Left to right: Lee Quesnel (MA), Bill Woods (IL), Crew Chief, Joe Miele (NJ), and Frank Mitchell (NC). Photo: via Bill Woods.

was quaint and beautiful.

We were always upgrading our "shack" at the hardstand with whatever we could scrounge up to protect us from the weather. From four walls and a roof made from wooden crates with a door opening, we added, as time went by, a swinging latched door. Inside the shack we built a long wooden bench that we used for sitting and covered it with a pair of army blankets. This was located along the wall and about two feet above it we mounted a side window that was a scrapped plastic bubble navigators used to "shoot" the stars or sun to get their bearings during flights. We used it for looking out toward the runway and taxi strip to watch for our plane if the weather was bad. Our shack was even heated from a can of oil and copper hose with a spigot attached which was strapped above a 5-gallon can. The oil slowly dripped into the can that was lit for our warmth on the few days it got quite cool.

Finally, does anyone recall when John Tangorra talked the cook into making a hasenpfeffer stew if he bagged a rabbit? He shot one, all right. The only problem was, when he shot it with his carbine, there was nothing left to cook. Therefore, no hasenpfeffer.



Finally back after a long absence! Here are some sites we found interesting for your curiosity or research. Remember to use the usual cautions against relying on things read on the web, unless the source there does a nice job of leading viewers all the way back to authoritative origins. As stewards of an exciting legacy, we know that the truth needs no embellishment. We all have a responsible part to play in keeping the stories and history of the 2nd Air Division alive—and accurate. If you publish to the web, let viewers know precisely where you got your material and, if you need to, ‘qualify’ its reliability. In doing so clearly, you will have done a service to the truth, as well as to the service and sacrifices we would honor.



The Second Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich, UK. The League has consistently supported the unique ‘living memorial,’ which grew from an idea at the end of the war in Europe, endorsed by Gen. William Kepner, its commander, and supported by inaugural contributions of 2AD airmen. Check out this site periodically, to keep up with the rich and relevant programming, tailored to Norwich residents of all ages. It portrays the “Friendly Invasion” by 330,000 US airmen in 1942-45, as well as the issues, trends and fads of current American society. This website reminds us of our own mission, partly fulfilled by our support of their ongoing and engaging work. <http://www.2ndair.org.uk/>, <http://www.2ndair.org.uk/digitalarchive>, <https://2ndair.wordpress.com>.



US Army Air Forces (online) Forum. Please see the article “Wanted—Stewardship Sponsor(s) for the Venerable Army Airforce Forum,” on page 19. Follow the link below to see the latest program brought under Heritage League auspices, because it is an excellent way to implement our mission. <http://www.armyairforces.com/>.



Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA). Situated at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, the agency supports research and education within the Air Force and its War College, and the work of all researchers looking for prime source records. Operational data created during the war can be found here, although we access it differently than complimenting records within the US National Archives. Their listed links comprise an excellent resource for you in researching ‘your’ group or veteran. <http://www.afhra.af.mil>.



Stichting Adoptie Graven Amerikaanse Begraafplaats Margraten (Organization of Adopters of American War Graves). As we approach Memorial Day, it is edifying to be reminded of the ongoing gratitude still to be found in countries liberated at the expense of American blood. This Dutch effort has succeeded in seeing to the adoption of every grave at Margraten (the Netherlands American Cemetery) and the construction of a moving and dignified online memorial. They are nearly finished finding a photo to link to the short bio they have for every one of the 8,301 buried there or the 1,722 missing, commemorated on the wall. <https://www.fieldsofhonor-database.com/index.php/en/margraten-2>.



UK Airfields. One day I hope to meet the hard-working and very talented Richard E. Flagg, who has managed to photograph virtually all of the WWII RAF and USAAF airfields, or their haunting remnants, and various markers dedicated to airmen who served (or were lost) in operations from England, the “aircraft carrier” that allowed victory in Europe. It is hard to decide whether his technical proficiency and organizing, are even better than his excellent photography. He has even added downloadable files you can use with Google Earth, with themes such as “UK Aviation Museums” and “Thor Missile Sites.” Curious about your vet’s base, or prepping for the Heritage League Reunion in 2019? Let Flagg be your virtual “Rick Steves” guide. <http://www.ukairfields.org.uk>.



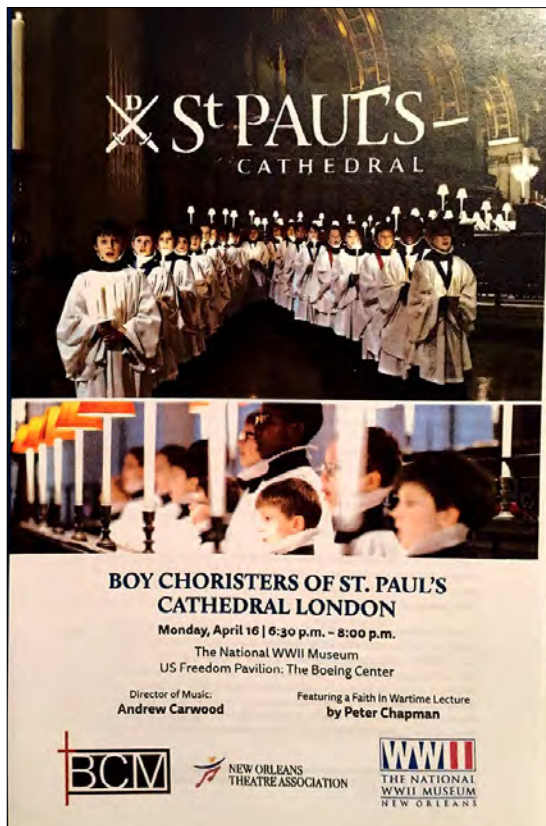
Collings Foundation. Want to know if the annual 'Wings of Freedom' tour of traveling warbirds, will come to you this season? Or interested in seeing some of the other planes that helped 'Witchcraft' and other B-24s win the war? Maybe you want to track the history of military aviation, by looking at the galleries of aircraft by war or era. Added treats include their collection of perfectly restored and displayed autos, or tanks from both world wars. After you take it all in, you will be inclined to visit them next time you find yourself near central Massachusetts. <https://www.collingsfoundation.org/>, <http://militaryaviationmuseum.org>.



National Museum of the US Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB. The 2018 Heritage League Reunion will again be alongside the always awesome 8th Air Force Historical Society's bash in Dayton, Ohio. (See reservation info and detailed agenda on pages 12-17). This definitive collection, recently extended to a third huge display hangar, never gets old. (This will be my fourth time, and I am even more excited than I was for the first visit.). By the time we go in October, the much heralded restoration of the original 'Memphis Belle' B-17 will be complete, and it promises to be a key display. (As if to echo the 'publicity battle' between the Flying Fortress and the Liberator, the B-24D 'Strawberry Bitch' has been in the collection for decades, with no special fanfare.). If you want to see an example of a particular historic US military aircraft, you can do it virtually on this website. For certain, it will entice your appetite to get there physically. <http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/>.

Beautiful Concert by Choristers of St. Paul's Cathedral, London at the WWII Museum in New Orleans

Story and photos by Beverly Tomb



Boy Choristers New Orleans Program...to commemorate and please the ear.

*The National WWII Museum was proud to present
the once-in-a-lifetime performance
of the Boy Choristers of St. Paul's Cathedral, London,
in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of
the American Memorial Chapel at St. Paul's Cathedral.*

April 16, 2018 6:30 - 8:00 PM

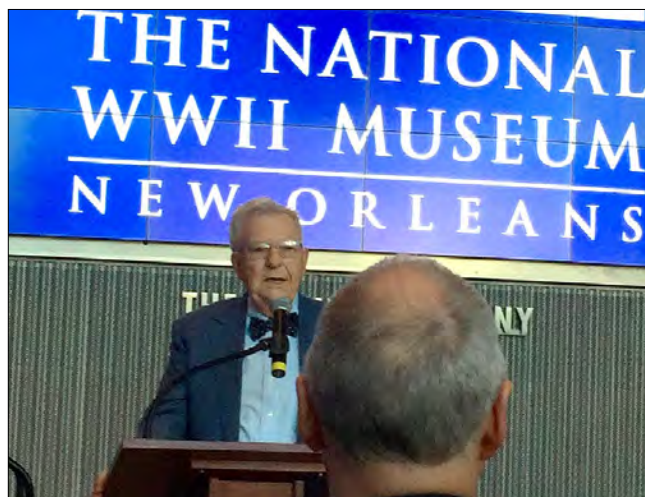
The Boy Choristers of St. Paul's Cathedral are now home from their April tour of the US. I was delighted to attend that sold-out concert in New Orleans. The special Faith in Wartime Lecture by Peter Chapman was the bonus that meant I couldn't miss that concert, the only one where he spoke. The concert was held in the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center. That's the same space as our gala banquet at last September's reunion, under the B-17 and next to the nose section of the B-24.



The boy choristers from St. Paul's Cathedral are ages 8-13. They stood tall without fidgeting, bowed in unison, and their voices are a gift from God.



The Very Reverend Dr. David Ison, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral (London), gave lovely remarks and introduced Peter Chapman.



A representative of the museum welcomed us and introduced the new Chairman of the Board of The National WWII Museum, Paul Hilliard, a WWII veteran. Mr. Hilliard reminded us not to confuse him with Saint Paul !



The boy choristers program included songs in Latin, French and English. Their encore was Leonard Bernstein's "Somewhere" from West Side Story—the song they sang at the St. Paul's service to remember the victims of Grenfell Towers fire.



Peter Chapman shared insights from his tour of the US as a St. Paul's Chorister in 1953, and gave the history of the American Chapel at St. Paul's. Some of you may have his book, ***A History of St Paul's Cathedral and the American People***. Over the years, Peter has also very kindly arranged for Remembrance Services in the American Chapel for the Governors of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust, and for the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF), as well as for the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Peter Chapman, his wife Stephanie and Beverly Tomb take time for a photo before the concert. Mark your calendar for Nov 15, 2018 in London at St. Paul's Cathedral for a special Remembrance service to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the American Chapel. Details at <https://www.stpauls.co.uk>.

This year, the 60th anniversary of the American Memorial Chapel, would be an excellent year to make the trip to England in November for the Annual Meeting of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust, the Norwich Remembrance Day ceremonies, and the special ceremony at the American Chapel in St. Paul's Cathedral. Or, if not in 2018, then definitely plan for the Heritage League reunion in Norwich in June 2019!

The Boy Choristers Program Song List.

PROGRAM

"Drei Motetten (Op. 39)"

Veni Domine
Laudate Pueri
Surrexit Pastor Bonus

Felix Mendelssohn

"Prelude and Fugue in C minor (Op. 27, No 1)"

Felix Mendelssohn

"Five Motets"

Benedic Anima Mea - Custodi Me
Domine Exaudi - Eripe Me
Desiderium Animae

George Malcolm

"Missa Brevis in D (Op. 63)"

Kyrie - Gloria
Sanctus & Benedictus - Agnus Dei

Benjamin Britten

INTERVAL

"Pie Jesu"

Gabriel Fauré

"Lux Aeterna"

Nadia Boulanger

"Litanies À La Vierge Noire"

Francis Poulenc

"Fugue Sur Le Nom D'alain"

Maurice Duruflé

"Long Since In Egypt's Plenteous Land"

C. Hubert H. Parry

"The Song of the Tree of Life"

Ralph Vaughan Williams

"For the Fallen"

Mark Blatchly

"How Can I Keep from Singing?"

Arr. John Scott

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

John Rutter

Heritage League will again be joining 8th Air Force Historical Society's Reunion, Dayton, OH, Oct. 10-14

Please note:

- If you are planning on attending, we recommend you make your hotel reservation immediately as the Crowne Plaza host hotel is already sold out. Arrangements are being made for additional accommodations. The hotel information is on the following pages. Visit the 8th Airforce Historical Society website, www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2018.
- IMPORTANT: Our Heritage League Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, October 13th at 10:30am. We would appreciate it if all HL members would attend.

It's a tight squeeze! Come on board the "Strawberry Bitch" on our visit to the National Museum of the US Airforce on Friday, October 12th



The cockpit of the 'Strawberry Bitch' in the Air Force Museum's B-24D aircraft flown to Dayton from the 'boneyard' in Tucson in 1959. Col. Albert J. Shower, then Commanding Officer of Davis-Monthan AB, and famously CO of the 467th in WW II, flew her in on the last inventoried US military flight of any Liberator type. While in Dayton for the 8th AF Convention, you can visit 'Strawberry'...She's a mighty fine lady! Photo courtesy of Nat'l Museum of the US Air Force (360° imagery on their website: http://www.nmusafvirtualtour.com/cockpits/WWII_tour/WWII-1.html)

CROWNE PLAZA DAYTON – DAYTON, OH**(937) 224-0800**www.cpdayton.com/**Location**

33 E. 5th Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402

Ideally located near the Dayton International Airport and situated in the heart of the city, near the Oregon Arts District, guests can enjoy shopping, dining, and entertainment just minutes away.

Reservation Information

Please call the number above and reference the 8th Air Force Historical Society or please go to www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2018 and click on the hotel reservation link at the top of the page. The hotel will allow no more than two reservations per call. Reservations should only be made for yourself and/or a family member. Separate names will be required for each room reservation. Please encourage your friends and family to make their own reservations instead of holding multiple reservations as a 'just in case.' This practice caused a premature need for overflow hotels last year.

Group Name: 8th Air Force Historical Society**Reunion Dates:** October 10-14, 2018**Rate:** \$124 + tax (currently 13.25%) for 1-2 people (\$10 add-on per night, per person for 3rd and 4th person). Rate includes hot breakfast each day.

Rates will be offered three days before and after official reunion dates, with advanced reservation notice and subject to group block availability.

Cut-off Date: 09/7/18. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.**Cancellation Policy:** All reservations must be accompanied by a credit card guarantee. Reservations can be cancelled up to 6pm on the day of arrival. No shows and late cancellations will be charged.**Parking & Shuttle Information**

Complimentary airport shuttle service is offered to and from the Dayton International Airport. Call the hotel once your airline ticket is booked to make your shuttle reservation and to obtain more information. The hotel also offers a complimentary shuttle service to the local area. As is the case with all complimentary shuttles, space is limited and considerable wait times may be necessary during busy arrival/departure times. You may want to pay for a taxi instead. The hotel also offers complimentary parking for guests staying at the hotel.

Wheelchair Rental

ScoutAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scoutaround for details or to make reservations

Unit Hospitality Rooms & Friday Events

A limited number of hotel meeting rooms and parlors will be used as hospitality rooms for individual groups, as well as meetings on Friday. Depending on the size of the room and the number registered for Friday's dinner, the same rooms may be used for those dinners. Rooms will be available to set up beginning Wednesday afternoon, and should be vacated by Sunday morning at 10am. Groups are allowed to bring in their own beverages and dry snacks. Ice will be provided. Hospitality Room bars must be closed when Receptions show on the reunion agenda (each evening). Rooms will be assigned based on the size of the group after the cut-off date and may need to be shared if lots of groups are interested. Small groups may need to combine with others for hospitality and/or Friday night's dinners. None of this can be confirmed until we know how many groups would like a hospitality room and how many people register from each group to determine final counts. To be included in group counts, each person must have paid the registration fee and be a dues-paying member of the Society (or the guest of one). Please contact Donna Lee, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. at DonnaLee@afri.com immediately to let her know if your group is interested in a hospitality room.

**8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OCTOBER 10 – 14, 2018
CROWNE PLAZA – DAYTON, OH**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 1:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration**
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm Welcome Reception with Cash Bar and Snacks, followed by dinner on your own
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm 8th AFHS Board Meeting
- 7:00pm - Until Hospitality Suites open

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests
- 8:00am - 11:30am **Reunion Registration Open**
- 9:00am - 2:00pm DAYTON CITY TOUR (*description follows*)
- 1:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration Open**
- 2:10pm - 2:50pm Curator's Corner
- 3:00pm - 5:00pm Seminar on Crash Site Excavations, Uwe Benkel & Maj Arie Kappert *
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm Cash Bar Reception
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Buffet Dinner and World Premiere, "The Cold Blue" by Erik Nelson & Peter Hankoff *

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests
- 8:00am - 11:30am **Reunion Registration Open**
- 8:00am - 9:15am Group Meetings
- 9:30am - 2:30pm NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE (*description follows*)
- 1:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration Open**
- 3:00pm - 4:30pm Q & A WWII Vets
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm Cash Bar Reception
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Rendezvous Dinners

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests
- 8:30am - 11:30am **Reunion Registration Open**
- 8:45am - 10:15am General Membership Meeting
- 10:30am - 11:30am Heritage League Meeting **HL Members Please Attend**
- 11:30am - 12:00pm Box lunches available for pick up (pre-purchase only)
- 12:00pm - 3:30pm 8th AFHS Board Meeting
- 12:30pm - 4:45pm CARILLON HISTORICAL PARK / PACKARD MUSEUM (*description follows*)
- 5:00pm - 5:30pm **Reunion Registration Open**
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Cash Bar Reception
- 6:30pm - 6:45pm WWII Veteran Group Photo (Tentative timing. Please check final schedule for update).
- 7:00pm - 10:00pm Gala Dinner and Program

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests

*** Speakers are tentative at this time and will be confirmed prior to the reunion.**

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

DAYTON CITY TOUR

Thursday, October 11

The birthplace of aviation, Dayton was once home to powered flight inventors, Orville and Wilbur Wright. Your guide will narrate the significance of the many interesting sites along this tour, including Oregon District, the city's oldest suburb; the Civil War Monument; the Flyover, an award-winning sculpture of flight; the Korean War State Memorial; and Memorial Hall, where veterans are remembered. Learn the history of the Miami Valley from the first settlers in 1796 to the influence of such entrepreneurs as Patterson, Deeds, Kettering, and Frazee. These notables and others made immense contributions to aviation, the arts, sports, government, and industry. There will be a short stop at the Esther Price Candy Store, now a successful candy distributor, which opened 50 years ago in Mrs. Price's basement. Enjoy lunch on your own at Dayton's upscale shopping and restaurant district, The Greene – featuring Cheesecake Factory, Chipotle, Panera, Subway, and many other dining choices.

9:00am board bus, 2:00pm back at hotel

\$38/Person includes bus and guide. Lunch on your own.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE US AIR FORCE

Friday, October 12

The United States Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world. The Museum tells the exciting story of aviation development from the days of the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk to the Space Age. More than ten galleries showcase various exhibits including over 300 aircraft and missiles, plus historically interesting aeronautical displays. Exhibits are known to change and move, but lots of planes are on display, such as the P-51, P-47, P-38, B-24, and B-26. The newly refurbished B-17 Memphis Bell, one of the most recognizable symbols of WWII will be on permanent display at the museum. In addition, the Presidential Gallery is located here featuring a collection of presidential aircraft, some of which you can walk through. The museum also features an IMAX theater and flight simulators (admission on your own). Have lunch at your leisure in one of the cafes on the mezzanine or second floor. The buses will shuttle back to the hotel at 12noon, 1pm, and 2:15pm.

9:30am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel

\$38/Person includes bus and escort.

Lunch and IMAX on your own.

CARILLON HISTORICAL PARK / PACKARD MUSEUM

Saturday, October 13

Carillon Historical Park celebrates the history of invention, transportation, and pioneer life in Dayton and the Miami Valley. It is home to a variety of collections, which document the area's history. While touring the Park, you may visit Newcom Tavern, Dayton's oldest standing building; view the Wright Flyer III; and board a 1903 Barney & Smith Parlor car. Antique automobiles, a working 1930's Print Shop, and vintage bicycles are some of the other exhibits you will see along the way. Continue the tour and step back in time at America's Packard Museum, where the Packard Motor Car Company comes to life again. Located in the original Packard Dealership Building, which was built in 1917, the museum has officially taken the name of the original dealership - The Citizens Motorcar Company - but has become known as "America's Packard Museum." View the world's largest collection of "Packard only" automobiles in the actual showroom. This unique museum showcases "the world's finest motor car" from its beginnings in 1899 to its demise in 1956. Note: This tour may be limited to the first 100 people, or different schedules may be followed. A lunch break is not included on this tour, so consider pre-purchasing the box lunch to eat before departure.

12:30pm board bus, 4:45pm back at hotel

\$54/Person includes bus, escort, and admissions.

All Trips require a minimum of 35 people.

Please be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the published time.

Driver and Staff Gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

**8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION
CROWNE PLAZA DAYTON
OCTOBER 10-14, 2018**

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please see the information on the hotel and make your reservations immediately. Once your hotel reservation is confirmed, proceed with the activity registration. See choices below and complete the Registration Form noting your event choices and personal information. By "WWII GROUP," we're asking for the group or unit in which you served (specific Bomb Group, Fighter Group, PRG, HQ, etc.). We use this information for tallying totals for each group, nametags, and seating arrangements. If you prefer to sit with a different group, please give us that information too. We do not need your squadron. Remit by mail with check or money order payable to Armed Forces Reunions by September 7, 2018. You may also register and pay with credit card online at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2018. A 3.5% convenience fee will be added to credit card reservations. Forms received after September 7 will be accepted on a space available basis only. Hotel reservations should also be made by September 7, but we encourage you to do so much sooner.

ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. CANCELLATION POLICY

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less a \$10 per person processing fee. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less a \$10 processing fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm Eastern Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation doesn't cancel your reunion activities.

DUES

Most reunion activity registration forms include a principal attendee and possible guests. Examples include: A WWII Veteran and his wife, a Next Gen Attendee and her son, an 8AF Enthusiast (no relation to a WWII Veteran), etc. The principal attendee must be a dues paying member of the Society to attend the reunion, so at least one person on the registration form must be in good standing as a member of the Society for that person and his/her guests to attend. If the principal attendee is not a member, Dues, \$40 per year, may be paid on the registration form.

REGISTRATION FEE

Everyone is expected to pay the registration fee, \$45 per person, which is totally different and separate from Dues.

MEAL & TOUR CHOICES

NEW FOR 2018: There are no meal packages! Because the hotel room rate includes a hot breakfast each morning, there is no need for a meal package. All other hotel meals can be purchased separately and are listed on the registration form.

In addition, tours are listed on the registration form and can be purchased separately. Tours and trips are described on the Reunion Highlights Pages, and prices are listed on the registration form. Driver and Staff gratuities are not included in the tour prices. All trips require a minimum of 35 people. Please be at the bus boarding area five minutes prior to the departure time.

8th AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM – OCTOBER 10 – 14, 2018

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will participate in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as confirmation. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2018 (3.5% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received on or before September 7, 2018. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. Your contact information will be shared only with reunion attendees.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**322 Madison Mews****Norfolk, VA 23510****ATTN: 8th AFHS****OFFICE USE ONLY**
 Check # _____ Date Received _____
 Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____
CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/7/18

	Price Per	# of People	Total
DUES			
The principal attendee must be a member of the 8AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are not a member, please pay your yearly dues here.	\$40		\$
REGISTRATION FEE			
Includes meeting expenses and other reunion expenses.	\$45		\$
Reg. Fee for children ages 8-16 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel	\$30		\$
MEALS			
Thursday, 10/11: Dinner Buffet (Chicken w/ Honey Brie Dijon Sauce & London Broil w/ Chimichurri sauce)	\$42		\$
Friday, 10/12: Rendezvous Dinner (Rosemary Lemon Chicken)	\$38		\$
Saturday, 10/13: Box Lunch (sandwich, chips, cookie, water)	\$16		\$
Saturday, 10/13: Banquet (Please select your entrée below)			
Herb-Roasted Prime Rib	\$45		\$
Grilled Salmon w/ Creamy Leek Sauce	\$45		\$
Chef's Choice of Vegetarian Entrée	\$45		\$
TOURS			
Thursday, 10/11: Dayton City Tour	\$38		\$
Friday, 10/12: National Museum of the US Air Force	\$38		\$
Saturday, 10/13: Carillon Historical Park / Packard Museum	\$54		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

Please Print. If a WWII Veteran is registering on this form, please list his name first.

MEMBER NAME (for nametag) _____

☐ 8AF VETERAN ☐ OTHER VETERAN ☐ NEXT GEN ☒ HERITAGE LEAGUE ☐ OTHER

IF A VETERAN, PLEASE CIRCLE: WWII Cold War Era Korea Vietnam Gulf War Desert Storm Iraq Other _____

WWII GROUP AFFILIATION FOR UNIT TOTALS & SEATING ARRANGEMENTS (please list BG/FG, not BS/FS) _____

SPOUSE NAME (if attending) _____

GUEST NAMES _____ ☐ NEXT GEN

PHONE # (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ @ _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

 MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

HOTEL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE CONFIRMED BEFORE SUBMITTING THIS FORM. PLEASE CHECK YOUR CONFIRMED HOTEL:

☐ CROWNE PLAZA DAYTON ☐ OTHER _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

Courage, Character & Patriotism Your Heritage League Dollars at Work Our Contribution to the 8th Air Force Museum Library



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE

"ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MUSEUM EXPERIENCES"

October 5, 2017

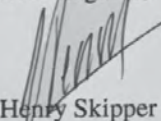
Ms. Beverly Baynes Tomb
Heritage League Of The 2nd Air Div. USAAF
2212 Grayson Place
Falls Church, VA 22043

Dear Ms. Baynes-Tomb,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, we thank you for your generous donation. Every day, we continue to carry out the mission of preserving for all Americans the stories of courage, character, and patriotism displayed by the men and women of the Eighth Air Force from World War II to the present. Our exhibits, programs and lasting relationships with visitors from around the world will help us in this endeavor.

I hope you will keep up with our progress and upcoming events by visiting our website at www.mightyeighth.org. Please know that your support is greatly appreciated.

Best Regards,



Henry Skipper
President/CEO

Receipt # 105-17

Date of Gift: 10/5/2017
Gift Amount: \$1,500.00
Campaign: 2017 Library

P.O. BOX 1992 SAVANNAH, GA 31402 TEL 912.748.8888 FAX 912.748.0209 WWW.MIGHTYEIGHTH.ORG

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and your gift is tax-deductible. For your records, please note that no goods or services were provided for this contribution. Please keep this letter as your tax receipt. Thank you.

WANTED--

Stewardship Sponsor(s) for the Venerable Army Air Force Forum... May We Never Forget!

by Brian Mahoney and Mike Simpson, Acting Co-Managers of "Army Air Forces Forum Project"

"Pay It Forward," the concept and same-named film, came into popular awareness about 20 years back. But to researchers, the concept was always at the core of our work. We knew that those following us would look to our work, just as we have to the combined efforts of those before us who carefully reported, documented, and interpreted the events of history.



The Heritage League, at the very core of its mission, supports efforts to keep the 2nd Air Division record accessible and the history accurate, as a practical way to honor and remember their services and sacrifices for freedom.

Many among our readership count themselves as WWII researchers of some sort; it may be as limited as fleshing out the story of 'your veteran.' It could be as sophisticated as doing original research, based on prime historical sources, to present articles, books, or web pages that are of great help to other researchers of every stripe, and to history's students.

We expect several of you, like Mike and me, enjoyed the 'golden era' of one or our all-time favorite resources for WWII airpower topics. ArmyAirForces.com—or its predecessors—have been bookmarked for over 20 years, materially aiding us in our

The Scott Burris era ends in his trusting hand-off to The Heritage League.

own research on the B-24, the numbered United States Army Air Forces, military operation specialties, technical equipment and its continual evolution, standard operating procedures, and, most importantly, firsthand accounts of all of this by articulate and qualified experts: WWII veterans themselves, who flew combat or kept the planes operational.

Scott Burris, a fellow 'second gen,' was the genius behind this phenomenal tool from the beginning, and tells the story of its evolution to the very active and refined state it achieved a few years ago. Scott tells this story at <http://www.armyairforces.com>, and also directs you to a page on the Heritage League site, where we have explained our hopes and needs for bringing the content, and possibly the excitement back.

Any 'relaunch' of 'the Forum' will NEVER be informed by authoritative veterans of WWII, enjoying the benefit of their experience and testament to how things actually were. The back-and-forth between us 'book-learned kids' and the guys who were actually there, in combat or maintenance roles cannot be replicated but this existing content deserves preservation. And with a discipline that supplants veteran input with careful research and analysis, subsequent generations can resume the very rich dialog.

It is 'only' technical difficulties that stand between us and the next iteration of Scott's great work. If you are well versed in MySQL (or MS SQL), or know someone who is, please fill out the form at: <http://www.heritage-league.org/aaf-forum-project.html>. We have identified one capable volunteer, but could use others, to speed up the work. Please let me and Mike know if this is you, or someone you know!

Heritage League of
the Second Air Division (USAAF)
Marybeth Dyer (458th BG)
6410 Valley Oak Plaza
Martinez, CA 94553

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<http://heritageleague.org/>



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