

Ball of Fire QUARTERLY EXPRESS

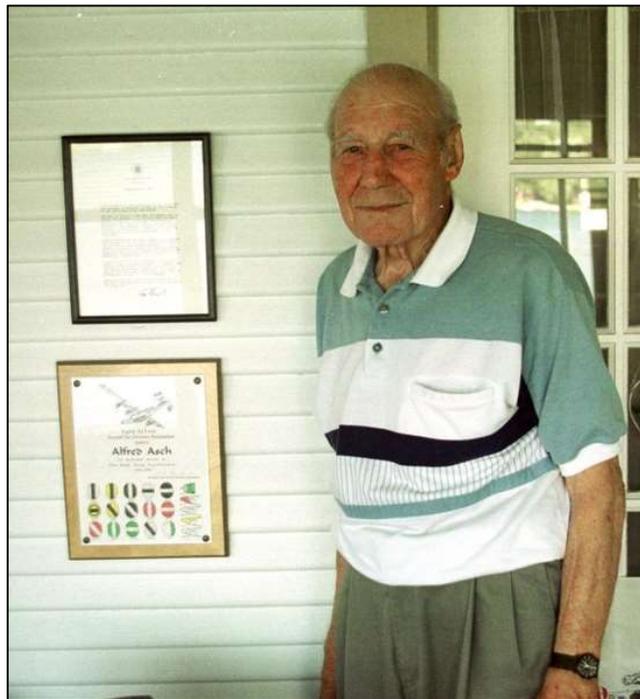


NEWSLETTER OF THE 93rd BOMB GROUP
2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, Hardwick, England
www.93bg.com

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Summer 2019

Beaverton Post Office to be named for World War II hero Alfred Asch



Congress has approved legislation to name the Beaverton Post Office in honor of Col. Alfred Asch, a World War II veteran who died in 2013. (Chris Tower)

By [Chris Ehrmann | cehrmann@mlive.com](mailto:cehrmann@mlive.com) Reprinted by permission of MLive, Bay City Times, Christopher Ehrmann, publish date November 19, 2018.

BEAVERTON, MI - Federal legislation renaming the Beaverton Post Office for a World War II hero is headed to President Donald Trump's desk for his signature.

The legislation introduced last June by U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Midland, calls for naming the Beaverton Post Office in honor of Col. Alfred Asch, a decorated veteran and a local from Beaverton, a community located in Gladwin County.

"He was a World War II hero, he flew many missions, and received 13 medals, including the Purple Heart," Moolenaar said. "He was a native of Beaverton, Michigan and was a citizen who gave back to the local community."

Asch started his service in 1941 when he joined the Army Air Corps where he served two tours with the 93rd Bomb Group, flying 28 missions, and with the 455th Bomb Group, where he flew 47 missions. Some of the medals he earned included the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf clusters. Most of his service was over north Africa and over Europe.



Sen. John Moolenaar, R-Midland, and Rep. Joel Johnson, R-Clare, present a special tribute to the family of Col. Alfred Asch commending Asch's significant contributions to Michigan and the nation. Moolenaar recognized Asch during state Senate session and presented Asch's surviving sons, David Asch and Peter Asch, and his brother, Daniel Asch, with a special tribute signed by Moolenaar, Johnson and Gov. Rick Snyder. (Courtesy | John Moolenaar)

When Moolenaar was a state senator in Michigan, he paid tribute to the colonel in 2014 at the opening of the Beaverton Activities Center, where a plaque honoring Asch is on display.

Decorated WWII veteran, author from Gladwin County honored by Michigan Senate

The memory of Col. Alfred Asch, a Gladwin County native and WWII veteran, was honored on the floor of the Michigan Senate this week. Asch, who died in 2013, earned 13 medals during his 27 years of military service.

Moolenaar also said the legislation was something the entire Michigan delegation supported with both Democrats and Republicans voting for it. "Throughout his distinguished military career, Colonel Asch displayed time and again the courage and conviction that was forged in Beaverton," said U.S. Sen. Gary Peters in a news release. "Designating Beaverton's USPS Facility as the Colonel Alfred Asch Post Office is a fitting tribute to his years of exemplary service, and I am pleased to see this legislation move forward."

The colonel, who died in 2013 at the age of 93, helped to establish a scholarship for residents of Gladwin County to go to Central Michigan University. He also wrote a book about his experiences in the war titled, "The Whole Nine Yards" which was published in 2013 as well. The legislation, which passed in the U.S. House of Representatives, recently passed in the U.S. Senate and is now headed to the president's desk for signature. "I believe he will sign it and it's something our entire Michigan delegation supported in a bipartisan way," Moolenaar said.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The 93rd BGA and I would like to say "Happy Spring & Summer!" Hope everyone is well – time sure flies by!

We continue to work on details of this year's reunion in the Detroit area. See more info on how it is shaping up, later in the BOF!

Our Officers also continue to meet on a regular monthly basis, and are focused on ensuring our member experience is the best it can be, especially for carrying on the legacy of our Veterans!

Michael has done an exceptional job in moving into the final phases of film production on "*Return to Hardwick.*" We are excited to start planning for some showings at film festivals, and looking at national recognition and viewing. Thanks for everyone's work and support of the film! We are excited to report some great venues for the upcoming screenings. A schedule is posted further in the BOF.

On April 9, 2019 we lost a truly great American, Richard E. "Dick" Cole at the age 103. Dick was Jimmy Doolittle's copilot on the "Tokyo Raid." He was the last of the 80 "Raiders." The 93rd BGA is honored that he was able to give us a short, personal, welcome audio clip at our 2018 Washington, D.C. reunion! Thanks you to Jim Lux for making the connection to him last fall. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, for this American hero. May he rest in peace.

Another great American- from the 93rd Bomb Group- is being honored on May 13, 2019! Pete Asch wanted to announce that his father, Colonel Alfred Asch, is being honored in Beaverton, Michigan, his hometown. A dedication ceremony is being held to designate the Beaverton Post Office officially, as the "Colonel Alfred Asch Post Office Building" Congratulations to Pete & his family!

Just a little over 6 months, and we will see you in Detroit!

Jim Root
President, 93rd BGA

UPCOMING REUNION OPPORTUNITY

Hardwick, England 2020 VE plus 75years: Colin and I are looking towards May 2020 for a reunion. Please keep it in mind as you make your vacation plans. 2020 will be the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe. If you have any question, please contact Don Morrison. Contact info is shown in the Officer Directory.



Exterior view of Sheraton



Inside Sheraton



The Henry Ford Museum

**93rd Bomb Group
Association 2019 Reunion
Romulus, Michigan
October 10 – 14, 2019**

Our 2019 Reunion takes place in the vicinity of Detroit and Ypsilanti, Michigan and offers a wide range of exciting activities and a great opportunity to renew friendships. We have selected the Sheraton Detroit Metro Airport Hotel located within two miles of the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW). The hotel's address is:

**Sheraton Detroit Metro Airport
8000 Merriman Road
Romulus, MI 48174**

Enjoy door-to-door service with 24-hour complimentary airport shuttle, offering shuttle service to and from Detroit Metro Airport (DTW), our hotel is just a short drive from the Yankee Air Museum and The Henry Ford museum.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The 11-story hotel contains 359 guestrooms and suites with complimentary high-speed Internet Access in guestrooms, meeting rooms, lobbies and restaurants, 50-inch LCD television with HD channels, full bath amenities and hair dryer, iron, ironing board & individual climate control, alarm clock radio, coffeemaker and in-room mini - refrigerator. Daily newspaper available.



SERVICES & FACILITIES: In-room dining; complimentary business center and support services; complimentary shuttle to/from airport, assistive devices for persons with disabilities; ATM and Essentials Shop; safety-deposit boxes in the guestrooms; laundry/dry cleaning off site; and complimentary parking



RESTAURANTS & BARS: Two restaurants: Cultivate and Connections with the highest quality cuisine. Creative chefs craft the menus based on fresh, local ingredients; coffees, pastries and to-go items; lobby bar with light-fare and cocktails



RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: heated indoor pool; 24-hour fitness center

Our room rate is \$104.00 plus tax of 14% per night (\$118.56 inclusive) for Thursday – Sunday night. The room rate includes breakfast for two. Breakfast for additional guests is \$10.00 per day. For those who want to arrive early or remain afterwards, the hotel has extended the rate for three days prior and three days after the reunion.

Attendees are responsible to make their own hotel reservations. For Reservations, contact the Sheraton Central Reservations by phone at **1-866-961-3982**. Be sure to identify your affiliation with the **93rd Bomb Group**. Or use the following link:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1542212420653&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

If you have difficulty, please call or email our in-hotel contact: Ashley Cyrus, sales coordinator, at 734-713-0552 or email: Ashley.cyrus@sheratondtw.com.

There are already 10 rooms reserved. Please make your reservations at the earliest opportunity!

In addition to the hotel cost, a registration fee covers the cost of our lunches, evening meals, transportation, memorabilia room, and program activities. A registration form will be included in a future issue of the BOFQE.

93rd Bomb Group 2019 Reunion Schedule of Events (Draft)

Day 1 – Thursday – October 10

10 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration / Memorabilia Room Setup – Everyone is welcome!
2:00 – 3:30 PM	Officers' Meeting
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Welcome Dinner - Attendee Introductions
8:00 – 10:00 PM	Memorabilia Room Open

Day 2 – Friday – October 11

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Educational Session #1 – Bill Kubota & “Most Honorable Son”
10:45 – 11:15 AM	Transportation to Ypsilanti
11:15 AM – 12:45 PM	Group 1 – Bomber Restaurant (Lunch – On your own), Group 2 – Yankee Air Museum
12:45 – 1:00 PM	Group 1 travels to the museum; Group 2 travels to the restaurant
1:00 – 2:30 PM	Group 1 – Yankee Air Museum, Group 2 – Bomber Restaurant (Lunch – On your own)
2:30 – 2:45 PM	Both groups travel to Eastern Michigan University (EMU)
3:00 – 5:00 PM	EMU, Strong Hall Auditorium – “Return to Hardwick” Screening & Q&A
5:30 – 6:00 PM	Return to Hotel
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Dinner
8:00 – 10:00 PM	Memorabilia Room Open

Day 3 – Saturday – October 12

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:30 – 11:30 AM	Business Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Buffet Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Veterans' Q&A
2:45 – 4:30 PM	Educational Session #2 – Don Morrison & “The 93 rd during Operation Overlord”
5:30 – 6:00 PM	Reception
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Memorial Dinner
8:00 – 10:00 PM	Memorabilia Room Open

Day 4 – Sunday – October 13

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Religious Service (non-denominational)
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Travel to The Henry Ford Museum
11:00 – 4:30 PM	Tour Museum (Lunch – On your own)
4:30 – 5:00 PM	Return to Hotel
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Dinner
8:00 PM - Closing	Memorabilia Room Pack-up – Everyone is welcome!

Day 5 – Monday – October 14

6 – 9 AM	Breakfast
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The Yankee Air Museum

The 93rd Bomb Group supports the museum's efforts to preserve and restore a portion of the Willow Run B-24 Plant where at peak production a new plane was produced every hour. The story of the Yankee Air Museum begins when Henry Ford built the plant to build B-24s. This was the first airplane manufacturing facility built using Ford's mass production techniques; a leading technological innovation of the time. Many of the planes the 93rd flew were built at Willow Run. The Rosie the Riveter exhibit focuses on the significant contributions of "Rosie the Riveter's" to the war effort. Learn how a B-24 was built and how both men and women helped win World War II for the United States in various ways. Many exhibits and displays relating to WWII including the Norden and Sperry bombsights, a B-24 cockpit and top turret, a B-24 instrument panel, a Link Trainer, an Army Half-Track vehicle, and exhibits relating to the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASPs (Women Air Service Pilots) are available to educate and illuminate our understanding.



C-47 Skytrain – Flyable

Static Aircraft Displays

The museum has a growing inventory of static aircraft displays. These aircraft are on display both inside and outside of the Museum, as well as at the Storage/Restoration facilities.

- SPAD XIII (Replica)
- PS-2 Franklin Glider
- TG-3 Glider
- Blanik L-13 Glider
- F-84F Thunderstreak
- RF-84F Thunderflash
- F-86D Sabre Dog
- O-2 Skymaster
- F-100C Super Sabre
- A-4C Skyhawk
- I-26 Glider
- AH-1J Cobra
- F-4C Phantom II
- UH-1D Iroquois ('Huey')
- F-101B Voodoo
- AN-2R Antonov
- B-52D Stratofortress
- T-33A Shooting Star
- RB-57A Canberra
- DHC-4D Caribou
- PB4Y-2 Privateer
- EC-121 Warning Star
- SBD Dauntless

Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity

Are you interested in riding in a WWII era airplane?

North American B-25 Mitchell



B-25 "Yankee Warrior"

The B-25 Mitchell is an American twin-engine, medium bomber manufactured by North American Aviation. The plane was named in honor of Major General William "Billy" Mitchell, a pioneer of U.S. military aviation. Used by many Allied air forces, the B-25 served in every theater of World War II and after the war ended many remained in service, operating across four decades. Produced in numerous variants, nearly 10,000 Mitchells rolled from NAA factories. These included a few limited models, such as the United States Marine Corps' PBJ-1 patrol bomber and the United States Army Air Forces' F-10 reconnaissance aircraft and AT-24 trainers.

Maximum speed: 271.97 mph
Range: 1,350 miles
Maiden flight: Aug 19, 1940
Length: 52' 11"
Wingspan: 67' 7"
Cruising speed: 230 mph

The B-25 pictured above is available for flights lasting 25 minutes from departure to arrival at a cost of \$400 per person. A discount is offered if the maximum number of seven passengers.

If interested in this opportunity contact John Marx, 412-327-1909 for additional details and to sign up.

Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity



Voted "Best Breakfast" in Washtenaw County by Current Magazine June 2018! We are your American aviation-themed breakfast and lunch diner at 306 East Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Open 7AM to 3PM daily.

The restaurant's theme is tied to the B-24 bombers that were made during World War II at the nearby Willow Run bomber plant. Our classic American breakfasts dishes are favorites for locals and visitors alike.

The Bomber opened in 1936 as Baldwin's Diner. In the 1940s the name became "The Bomber"; later changed to Bob's Barbecue in the mid- 1970s. In 1986, the name Bomber returned, and the current owner's John Sebestyen and Johanna McCoy purchased it in 1995. Annually, the restaurant celebrates "Rosie the Riveter Day." Last year 13 women who worked on the B-24 line joined the celebration. Roses are spread in profusion to celebrate!



The Henry Ford Museum

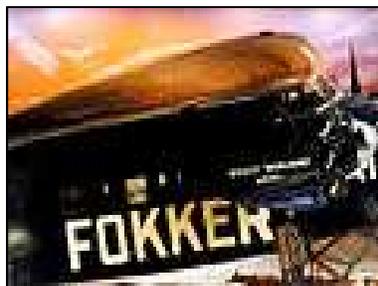


Trace the history of the auto and our fascination with it along with other American inventions through the collection of Henry Ford's estate, which includes such memorabilia as the chair Abraham Lincoln sat in when he was assassinated and the limo in which John F. Kennedy was shot.

The Henry Ford (also known as the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Greenfield Village, and as the Edison Institute) is a large indoor and outdoor history museum complex and a National Historic Landmark in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn, Michigan, United States. The museum collection contains in addition to the presidential limousine of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln's chair from Ford's Theatre; Thomas Edison's laboratory, the Wright Brothers' bicycle shop, the Rosa Parks bus, and many other historical exhibits. It is the largest indoor-outdoor museum complex in the United States and is visited by over 1.7 million people each year. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1981. Aviation related items include:



1903 Wright Flyer



1926 Fokker flown over the North Pole by Richard E. Byrd



1939 Northwest Airlines Douglas

Ben Kuroki, American Hero and Honored Member of the 93rd



On August 12, 2005, Ben Kuroki, a Japanese-American was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his bravery while flying as a B-24 crewman on 68 missions in Europe and the Pacific. He flew 30 missions as a gunner mostly top turret, completing his last mission in *Tupelo Lass* on Nov 5, 1943. Because of his Japanese ancestry, after completing his required missions in Europe with the 93rd, Ben was required to receive special permission to fly in combat over Japan. Ben was the only Japanese to fly in missions over Japan and was a crew member in the low-level Ploesti mission on Aug 1, 1943. Ben was invited to the White House on four separate occasions.

The efforts of his wartime friends and colleagues were responsible for this long over due recognition. After a two-year long campaign, Ben was recognized for his heroism. The 93rd Bomb Group Association hosted a dinner on November 11, 2005 at its San Diego reunion. The documentary, "Most Honorable Son," was previewed as well. Later issued by PBS in DVD format, the PBS website states the following:

Ben Kuroki may be one of the most remarkable people you've never heard of.

Born in 1917 to Japanese parents who had moved to the U.S. and settled on a small vegetable farm near Hershey, Nebraska early in the 20th century, he graduated from high school in 1936 and began a quiet life as a farmer.

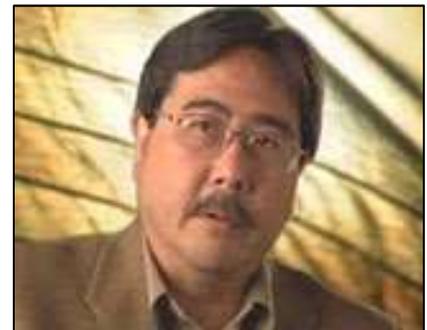
And then came Pearl Harbor.

"Most Honorable Son" is an hour-long documentary that explores the personal odyssey of this Nebraska-born Nisei whose sense of shame over the bombing as a Japanese American and sense of loyalty to his country as a native-born American drove him to enlist to fight the Axis powers.

This moving story of our only Japanese American air war hero is told through rare and little-seen footage, as well as emotional recollections from Kuroki and his fellow airmen of the 8th and 20th Army Air Forces.

"Most Honorable Son" follows Kuroki from his childhood through his distinguished military career and on to his long-overdue honoring with the Distinguished Service Medal in an August 2005 ceremony.

The director, Bill Kubota, lives in the greater Detroit area and will join us for our first Educational Session at 9 am, Friday, October 11th to talk about the making of the film and to show the documentary. We are excited to have the opportunity to revisit the Ben Kuroki story and share it with the many attendees who haven't heard about Ben's amazing life and accomplishments.



Eastern Michigan University hosts “Return to Hardwick”

Eastern Michigan University (EMU) located in Ypsilanti, Michigan was founded in 1849 as a small teacher's college. EMU is a major learning and research institution with a distinct mix of comprehensive academic resources and strong community initiatives. They offer more than 200 undergraduate majors, minors and certificates, plus more than 150 graduate programs to our 21,105 students. EMU's history program is a partner with the Yankee Air Museum (YAM) conducting periodic joint educational programs including an active student intern program. The 93rd Bomb Group Association will take advantage of the YAM/EMU partnership to screen our documentary “Return to Hardwick.” EMU students and faculty are invited to attend the event on Friday, October 11th at 3 PM. A question and answer session will follow the screening. Mr. James Egge, leads the Department of History and Philosophy and is a Professor of History and will host the screening.

The Winter 2019 edition of “History at Eastern Michigan University” Newsletter leads with an article called, “History at Eastern meets the Arsenal of Democracy”. The article begins as follows:

A major reason that Detroit became known as the “Arsenal of Democracy” during World War Two was the Willow Run Bomber Plant, which, at its peak of production in 1944, could produce one B- 24 Liberator Bomber per hour. So potent, in fact, was the production capabilities of this plant that 8,685 of these mighty bombers were produced here for the war effort in just four short years. Henry Ford built the Willow Run Bomber Plant in 1941, and he and his advisors applied the lessons they had learned from mass producing automobiles to the production of planes at the bomber plant. One of the most innovative parts of the plant was an assembly line that included a turntable about two-thirds of the way through the production process, that allowed the aircraft to be turned a full 90 degrees before completing the manufacturing process and leaving the factory.

Efforts to preserve the incredibly rich legacy of the bomber plant and to highlight the history of aviation led to the founding of the Yankee Air Museum in 1981. The museum currently holds three flyable WWII aircraft: a B-17 Flying Fortress, a B-25 Mitchell Bomber, and a C-47 Skytrain, as well as many artifacts dealing with war-time and peace-time aviation.

The story of Henry Ford's accomplishment is told in Willow Run, Colossus of American Industry by Warren Benjamin Kidder, Copyright 1995. An important goal of our association is to “perpetuate the memory of those who served in WWII.” The sharing of our documentary with the EMU community is consistent with our objective and will tell the story of our veterans to a new generation.

GREETINGS FROM THE 93RD BG HISTORIAN!



Visit with Bill and Kristin Gros

During a recent trip I was lucky enough to stop by and visit with Bill and Kristin on Bill's 96th birthday. It was great to see them again. We talked about the 93rd BG, the Hot Stuff Memorial and his plane "Eager Beaver". Bill is one of the last of the original crewmen of the 93rd Bomb Group from 1942. His pilot was Lt. Frank Rinehart and they flew on "Eager Beaver" serial number 41-23737. The plane, after its combat days were over, was transferred to the 446th BG to become their assembly ship called "Fearless Freddie".

FREE Memorabilia cataloging and Research

I am willing to scan any documents, records and photos of a 93rd BG veteran and return ALL of the original items (unharmed) along with CDs of all scans/jpeg images, along with any additional information I can add regarding names, plane serial #, artwork and places. There is NO charge for this service! I can also make extra CD copies for family members. I have done this for several veterans over the years. My contact info is shown in the Officer Directory.

Message from the Editor

I am always looking for any articles about any event that involved the 93rd BG. These can be short stories written by the veteran or family. If it is interesting to you most likely it will be interesting to all of us too! This is YOUR Ball of Fire Newsletter. Please send any article submittals or Letters to the editor to my attention for inclusion in future Newsletters.

If you have any questions regarding the 93rd BG, please contact me an email/letter/ call with your question or topic for a mini research project. I will do my best to research an answer and publish it in the newsletter.

Cheers,

Don Morrison

93RD WEBSITE & FILM PROJECT

RETURN TO HARDWICK / FILM PROJECT UPDATE

Well we did it! The film is in its final stages of getting out to the public. As I write this today, the trailer will be released to all email subscribers of the Return To Hardwick website. It's an exclusive look for people that have been following the film the last few years. The trailer will then be posted on a wider release to social media outlets a few weeks later. By the time this goes to print you should be able to go to the Facebook page for the film and see it. What we are also releasing is a list of screening dates the film will play at this summer. A few highlights are screenings at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Pooler, GA, The Forum in Norwich, England - the same location as the Second Air Division Memorial Wing is located, and the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda, FL. In addition to these locations we have about six others to promote. I urge everyone to visit www.hardwickfilm.com and keep current on the progress of the film. We will be adding more screenings as the summer approaches. I do plan to attend most of the screenings so if you are able to get to one of the locations I hope to see you there!



If you get a chance please sign up for the *Return To Hardwick* email list at www.hardwickfilm.com. You will be able to get up to date info much quicker.

93RD BOMB GROUP WEBSITE UPDATE

By the time you read this you will be able to go to the 93rd BG website and see the official trailer for the Return To Hardwick documentary. Look at the TV on the bottom right of the homepage. We also hope to be updating the website with news from our screenings this summer. It will be an exciting time for the film and we hope to keep you informed. The Featured Veteran section on the homepage has also been updated. This was a great post from the 93rd's Facebook page by Don Butterfield. He has some great photos of his father, crew and plane from the war - check it out when you get a chance!

Michael Sellers
Producer, Director and Editor
Return To Hardwick - a documentary
93rd BG Technology Manager

Correction!

Due to an error by the editor, the wrong photo was used in announcing the awarding of the Timberlake Award to Michael Cudlitz.

This is considered to be the "highest" honor awarded by the 93rd BGA, and is a tribute and recognition for your commitment and dedicated service! It is named in honor of the Commanding Officer of the 93rd Bomb Group during World War II, General Edward "Ted" Timberlake.



Michael Cudlitz

On behalf of our Veterans, Members, and Friends, we would like to recognize your outstanding work and support with the making of our documentary film. Your gracious support in narrating our film, is a tremendous honor for us, and it is greatly appreciated! The success of the film includes your work directly with Michael Sellers, and the 93rd Bomb group.

Again, thank you for your support of all World War II veterans and the work that you do!



93rd BGA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year 2019

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

93rd BG Connection: (please circle appropriate) Vet is/was-self, father, uncle, grandpa or I am a Historian/friend.

Name of 93rd veteran _____ Rank _____

Squadron _____ Time period in Service: _____ 19 _____ to _____ 19 _____

Airplane Name(s) _____ Pilot(s) _____

Crew Chief(s) _____ Comments (list crew if known) _____

(use back side for more info)

Annual Membership	\$25 \$ _____	
2 year discount rate (2019 & 2020)	\$45 \$ _____	
Tax deductible Donation	\$ _____	(The 93 rd is a 501(c)(3) Organization)
TOTAL	\$ _____	

___ Please MAIL newsletter ___ Please E-MAIL newsletter

___ Yes! I would like to volunteer to help the 93rd BGA and my skill is:

Make checks payable to: 93rd BOMB GROUP

(You may also pay by PayPal through the 93rd Bomb Group website, 93bg.com)

Mail to: Jean Koznarek
93rd Bomb Group Ass'n.
2644 West Park Blvd.
Shaker Hts., OH 44120

KEEP OUR HISTORY ALIVE!

Consider a membership for a friend or family member.
(Make a copy of this form for additional memberships. **Thank You!**)

Please note, membership is on a calendar year.