

# Ball of Fire QUARTERLY EXPRESS

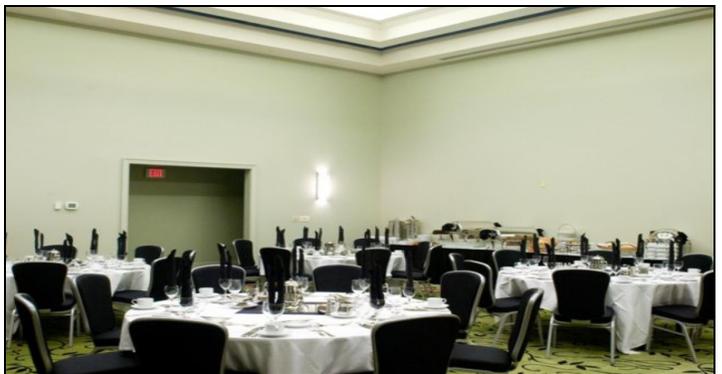


NEWSLETTER OF THE 93<sup>rd</sup> BOMB GROUP  
2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, Hardwick, England  
[www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com) or [www.93rdbombardmentgroup.com](http://www.93rdbombardmentgroup.com)

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## 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Reunion September 27 to October 2, 2017 New Orleans, LA *Note the Schedule Change*



Our 2017 Reunion takes place in New Orleans, Louisiana, offering a wide range of exciting activities and a great opportunity to renew friendships. We have selected the Crowne Plaza New Orleans-Airport, located about 2 ½ miles from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) and easily accessible to I-10, I-310 and Lake Pontchartrain Causeway. The hotel's address is:

**Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport  
2829 Williams Boulevard  
Kenner, Louisiana 70062**

The Crowne Plaza is a full service hotel with its own on-site restaurant, The Landing, and a lounge, an outdoor pool and whirlpool and a state-of-the-art fitness center. The hotel is equipped with a full service business center and free high speed internet access. Guests who arrive by car will find ample free parking in the hotels lot. Those arriving by air can coordinate shuttle service to and from the airport. We have negotiated a room rate of \$129.00 plus tax of 14.75% per night (\$148.03 inclusive) for Wednesday – Sunday night. The room rate includes a hot/cold breakfast buffet each

morning for two occupants per room. Additional guests may join the breakfast buffet for \$10 per person. 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 schedule. Maximum occupancy per king room is two guests. Maximum occupancy per room with two beds is four guests. Children age 17 and under stay complimentary in paid adult room using existing bedding. Each attendee is responsible to make your hotel reservations. For Reservations contact the hotel directly by phone: **1-800-227-6963**. Be sure to identify your affiliation with the **93rd Bomb Group Association**. Reservations should be made as soon as possible to assure room availability. The deadline is **August 28th**. Don't wait until then. Make your plans now. If you have to cancel, you have until 24 hours prior to arrival date. In addition to the hotel cost, a registration fee covers the cost of five evening meals, four lunches, bus transportation, and activity entrance fees. A registration form will be included in the next issue of the BOFQE.



The reunion will begin on Wednesday rather than Thursday as in past years. The world premiere of our documentary "Hardwick Aerodrome 104" is scheduled to take place at The National Museum of World War II on Thursday evening, Sep 28<sup>th</sup>. To provide more time for people to arrive and attend the premiere, we added an additional day. In accordance with the members guidance when we selected New Orleans, we will be holding several joint events with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society who will be meeting at the same time. We previously announced dates at the end of October. Hotel availability and expense forced the 8<sup>th</sup> to reschedule to an earlier date and we followed.

This year, the 93<sup>rd</sup> will join with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division Heritage League to focus on the vastly improved National Museum of World War II. The dates chosen will allow us to participate in the museum's annual WWII Air Power Expo at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport. Coordination is underway for the museum to host the World Premiere of the 93<sup>rd</sup>'s documentary, Hardwick Aerodrome 104 at one of their five theaters. We anticipate continuing to host our memorabilia room, educational sessions, and annual business meeting. Watch the next BOFQE for more details!



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope everyone has had a great start to 2017! I want to thank everyone for completing the general survey that was enclosed with your membership renewal! The 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA Leadership Team values your input on making our organization stronger. There are some great comments on opportunities to improve, as well as continuing the good work that is going on! Look for a summary in the next issue of the BOF. If you haven't renewed or completed the survey please do so as soon as possible! Reunion planning continues for what is shaping up to be a fabulous reunion in New Orleans this fall! John Marx, and the reunion committee are hard at work negotiating with the hotel, planning events, combining with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society events, where possible, planning education sessions, developing a reunion schedule, and working with the World War II Museum on our World Premiere of the film, Hardwick Aerodrome 104, that is currently in production. You will see more updates throughout this BOF. Thanks to everyone in advance for volunteering to help with our 2017 reunion planning! Hope to see everyone there!

Just a note on our technology/social media: we are now up to 549 "members" on our Facebook group site. If you are not a member, you might want to consider joining, if you are active on Facebook. We continue to add information and stories, as our members & friends connect through this great avenue on the internet! Also, if you haven't visited our website lately, do so at [www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com).

See you in New Orleans!

Jim Root  
President, 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA

## UPCOMING 2017 AND 2018 REUNION OPPORTUNITIES

**2018 Dedication of the Hot Stuff Memorial:** All are encouraged to travel to Iceland for the dedication to be held on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Hot Stuff" crash that took place on May 3, 1943. After a lengthy fund raising drive spearheaded by Jim Lux, we will gather with United States and Iceland officials, the crew's family members and others for the Memorial dedication on May 3, 2018 to remember the tragic accident 75 years before. If you would like more information please express your interest to Jim Lux at [hotstuff.memorial@gmail.com](mailto:hotstuff.memorial@gmail.com).

**2018 National Capitol Region:** At our annual Business Meeting in San Antonio, the members voted to visit the WW II Memorial and Air Force Monument in Washington DC in 2018. Many consider DC the center of the world and it's certainly full of monuments, museums and other sight-seeing opportunities. Served by three airports, National, Dulles and Baltimore – Washington access is easy from most places in the US. Planning will begin soon. Anticipate dates in October 2018.

**2017 or 2018 Hardwick, England:** We are looking at the idea of a trip back to Norwich and Hardwick in May of 2017 or 2018. Please let Don Morrison (phone 330.415.2222 or [Doniac1967@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Doniac1967@sbcglobal.net)) know if you are interested in this trip, which year(s) and if you are also interested in going to Iceland Memorial Dedication.

## ACCIDENT AT HARDWICK



Maurice during the 2015 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Reunion at Hardwick

Maurice Hammond and his family has been great supporters of the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG and the USAAF history in England during WW2. On October 2, 2016; the P-51 Mustang "Janie" landed normally, then in the rollout for reasons unknown the aircraft departed the runway, striking a tree at high speed, port wing torn off, engine / fuselage separated. The passenger sadly declared dead at the scene. Maurice Hammond (Pilot) was airlifted and was in the hospital with multiple injuries. There was a small isolated fire. Maurice was in a coma for several days with multiple broken bones, ribs etc., neck damage, and facial injuries. Due to the severe injuries, he had emergency surgery and subsequent surgery. He is now at home continuing slow recovery, moving around and overseeing work at his company. The recovery and rehab will take many months. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the family of military enthusiast John Marshall, passenger who was killed in the accident. Please remember in your thoughts and prayers, all of our friends at Hardwick who are affected by this tragedy. Get well cards can be sent to Maurice at 2 Langton Green, Eye, Suffolk, IP37HL England.

# Get well soon!!!!

## DEBRIEFING

This section will bring to light short stories about certain missions or events as recalled by our 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Veterans. Historian Don Morrison and Jim Guddal are collaborating to bring you those memorable moments in time as experienced by our guys based at England's Hardwick Aerodrome 104 during the early 1940s, a life surrounded by the B-24 Liberator and thousands of miles away from home.

It gives us great pleasure to present such a story as told by **Willard Hunzeker**, of the **330<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron**. His job on the B-24 was Navigator. (Willard passed away a short time after the 2016 reunion.)

**Willard Hunzeker's recollection of his 1st mission on June 7, 1944 and missions 20 and 21.**

"After 72 years and 33 missions, it is difficult to recall a single mission which "sticks" in my mind as being worthy of recollection. We were always happy to return to base. June 7<sup>th</sup> was the first mission and as could be expected, everyone was nervous, unaware of what we would encounter. We almost ran out of fuel and had to land in Southern England to refuel before returning to Hardwick. Not a good start for a tour of duty. It was the day after D-Day.

Another mission I recall was on July 11, an 8 hour flight to Munich. Lots of clouds. We missed the target and dropped bombs on Augsburg. We must have ticked off the brass because we got sent back the next day. We did get to Munich. We made two long flights, each over 8 hours, but we got safely back to home base. There were no enemy aircraft but lots of ground fire.



Date July 11 or 12, 1944

Aircraft 42-95254 AG G

"Before takeoff to Muenchen (Munich)"  
Bennett, Calahan, Tiller, Me (W. Hunzeker),  
Kipo, ?, Borshoff, Stolte, Cote, Baker

## FOLDED WINGS

### Leo F. Bates



Leo is in the middle

Mr. Bates, age 93 years, passed away at his home on Wednesday, February 17, 2016. He was born in Bay County, Michigan on February 5, 1923 to the late Frederick N. and Grace A. (Mercer) Bates. He served in the United States Army Air Corp during World War II and flew 30 missions. He was a member of the 93rd Bomb Group. Leo was a retired plasterer and was a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Essexville and its Golden Friends group. He was an avid bowler, having bowled recently at 92 years of age. He was an accomplished wood carver and made beautiful walking sticks that can be found on every continent of the world. On August 5, 1950, he married the former Norma June Clark and she preceded him in death on August 16, 2014. Survivors include a daughter Paula J. (Alan) Miller, 4 grandchildren: Greg Sullivan, Jeannie (Jeff Church) Murphy, Tracie (John) Buckley and Jenifer Sullivan (Mike) Kloppel, 8 great-grandchildren: Dannyel Ballard, Alex Preger, Cameron, Chelsae, Chase and Serena Sullivan, Austin and Breonna Buckley, a great-great granddaughter, Lyoness and a great-great grandson, John. Funeral service were held on Sunday, February 21, 2016 at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Rev. Eric A. Stone officiated a private interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan.

### Philip Buffinton



1923 - 2016 BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington - Philip Gardner Buffinton, 92, of Bloomington passed away at 10:55 a.m. on Thursday, August 25, 2016 at Martin Health Center in Bloomington.

A private family graveside service was held at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bloomington with Fr. Jeff Windy officiating.

Memorials may be made to Faith In Action or Holy Trinity Catholic Church or Martin Health Center.

Philip was born on October 18, 1923 in North Adams, Massachusetts, a son to Arthur and Mary Edwards Buffinton. He married Rita Gagnier on October 22, 1945 in Williamstown, MA. She survives.

In addition to his wife, Rita, surviving are three daughters, Denise (Neal) Adamson of Montgomery, TX, Nancy (Ron) Buffinton-Kelm of Sisters, OR and Joan (Bill) Sellberg of Normal, IL; one grandson, Neelson (Rachelle) Adamson of Tomball, TX; two great grandchildren, Maddie and Preston; sister, Jean B. Campell of MA; brother, Thomas H. (Sally) Buffinton of MA and sister in-law, Gladys Gagnier of MA.

Philip enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in October 1942 and was called to active duty in January 1943. He graduated from pilot training school as 2nd Lt. in Frederick, OK in March 1944. He piloted B-24 bombers for the 8th Air Force, England, Second Air Division, 93rd Bomb Group and was lead pilot for 19 missions from October 1944 to May 1945. Philip was discharged September 1945.

He attended Williams College, Class of 1946 and graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Class of 1949 with a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Upon graduation from WPI in 1949, he was employed by the Factory Mutual Insurance Companies as a fire protection engineer in Boston, MA. He was an engineer and risk underwriter at Manufacturers Mutual Fire Insurance Company (Allendale Insurance Co.) in Providence, RI from 1953-1955 and was a manager at Factory Mutual Rating Bureau in Providence, RI from 1956-1961. Philip was Vice President at State Farm Fire and casualty Company in Bloomington, IL from 1961-1974 and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer from 1974-1987, retiring on December 31, 1987. From 1988-1992 he served as consultant to the General Reinsurance Corporation specializing in catastrophe exposures like hurricanes, tornados and earthquakes.

He was a former member of Bloomington Country Club in Bloomington, IL. He enjoyed golf, reading and woodworking. He was very dedicated to his job and his family and enjoyed working on projects in his spare time. If something was broken or didn't work right-he could fix it.

The family wishes to thank the caring staff of Martin Health Center, Dr. Sven Klauss and Advocate Hospice who provided wonderful care for Philip and his family.

## **Samuel Delcambre**

A mass of Christian burial was held for Mr. Samuel Joseph Delcambre, age 94 , on Friday, August 21, 2015 at 2:00 PM at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with Fr. Buddy Breaux officiating. Entombment followed at All Saints Mausoleum. A gathering of remembrance for family and friends to celebrate the life of Samuel Delcambre was held at David Funeral Home of Loreauville Friday, August 21, 2015 at 8:00 AM until the time of service. Samuel Delcambre was a native of Iberia Parish and a lifelong resident of Loreauville. Samuel was born to Odilon Delcambre and the former Emie LeBlanc on January 22, 1921. Sam joined the Air Force in 1942 at the age of 21 and was assigned to the 93rd Bomber Group 328th Squadron as a B-24 waist gunner. His plane, "Jerk's Natural", was a part of Ted's Flying Circus. Sam, a Technical Sergeant, completed over 30 flying combat missions. He lost his hearing during World War II as a result of these combat missions. For his heroism, the United States Air Force awarded Sam the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Airman's Medal four times. At the end of WWII, Sam returned to the United States and became an instructor at the First Air Force Training Center in Charleston, South Carolina to help create the next generation of Airmen. After being discharged from the Air Force, Sam was employed as an electrical contractor. Sam spent many hours in his woodworking shop making clocks and crucifixes which he gave to his many friends and

relatives. When he gave the crucifixes, he asked for prayers for his failing eyesight due to macular degeneration. He never went completely blind and was truly able to enjoy his life until the end. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Gloria Judice Delcambre; his son John R. Delcambre and his wife, Yvette, of Loreauville; his daughter Debra Delcambre Shackelford and her husband, Jeff, of New Iberia; four grandchildren: Brody Delcambre and his wife, Tya, of Scottsdale, AZ, Kelly Delcambre Criner and her husband, Captain Nicholas Criner, of El Paso, TX, Amanda Shackelford of Lafayette and Justin Shackelford of Lafayette; three great grandchildren: Hanz Criner, Zoey Criner, and Maya Delcambre; his sister, Peggy Motty; and his brother, Dr. O. P. Delcambre, and his wife Page. He is preceded in death by his parents Odilon and Emie LeBlanc Delcambre; twin brother, Sampson C. Delcambre; and sisters: Nell Calahan, Katie Pelton, and Hildred Abshire.

## Wyndham Fletcher



Wyndham Burton Fletcher, Jr. (Bubber) died on January 27, 2014 at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson, MS. Bubber was born on Feb 16, 1924 in Indianola, MS to Wyndham and Evelyn Fletcher, who preceded him in death. Bubber grew up in Indianola attending school there, but graduated from high school in 1941 from Columbia Military Academy, Columbia, TN. He attended the University of Mississippi where he was a member of the Delta Psi fraternity. Bubber entered WWII in 1942 and served in England with the 8th AAF, 93rd Bomb Group (H). After discharge in 1945, Bubber began farming in Indianola and farmed with his brother, Leslie, for 50 years. He belonged to the Methodist church in Indianola for many years serving as a conference delegate, lay speaker, Sunday school teacher, and Methodist Men's Club cook. Bubber served as a Gideon for over 30 years placing countless Bibles into the hands of many souls. He was honored to serve on the board and as chairman of MS Prison Industries for several years. He also chaired a number of state farm and community organizations. For 20 years Bubber served as president of Planters Gin and Warehouse Co. After moving from Indianola to Madison, Bubber became a member of Wesley Chapel in Jackson, MS. He is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years, Sarah Ann Cliett Fletcher, formerly of West Point, MS, three loving daughters Sallie Evelyn Fletcher, Katherine Cliett Fletcher Godfrey and Ann Wyndham Fletcher Chambers and husband Robert Neyland Chambers, Jr., and three dearly loved grandchildren, Lawrence (Rance) Godfrey, Hamilton (Hamp) Godfrey, and Olivia Hope Chambers. He is also survived by a brother Leslie Reid Fletcher and his wife Adelaide of Indianola and their three sons Reid, Jr and family of Huntsville, AL, Spence and family of Ridgeland, MS and Josh and family of Jonesboro, AR. Bubber is grateful to all his doctors and health care givers. He enjoyed sharing in his Piccadilly lunch group and the Magnolia Coffee club. Bubber was forever faithful in sharing his testimony with many people about what God had done in his life.

## William H. Francis



**July 31, 1921 - September 15, 2015**

William H. Francis, 94, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully, September 15, 2015 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice & Life Care Center. He was born in Binghamton, N.Y. and lived there till 1998, when he moved to Hendersonville, N.C. He was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Phyllis Francis, in 2012 and son Gary Francis.

Surviving are his daughter Linda Gagnon and husband Frank of Winnabow, N.C., son Mark Francis and wife, Amy of Abingdon, Maryland, and daughter, Cynthia Koltz and husband, Gerald of Chenango Bridge, N.Y. Grandchildren Adam Gagnon, Nicole Gagnon McBryde, Dr. Tracy-Francis Nuygen, Matthew Francis, Austin & Luke Francis, Patrick, Jessica & Danielle Koltz, Hannah Fonti. Six great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and his dog, Midge.

Bill served in the Air Force during WWII as a Tail Gunner with the 93rd Bomb Group "Ted's Traveling Circus" in 1944 with 27 missions over Germany & France. He graduated in 1945 as Flight Engineer on a B-29 with a commission of 2nd Lieutenant. Received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters. He was able to join WWII Vets from Hendersonville, N.C. on an Honor Air Flight to Washington, D.C. He also joined the Warrior Ride at age 92 in the Southport 4th of July parade. He was President and owner of Francis Construction Co., Inc. for 33 years, building custom homes.

A graveside Memorial service was held at Chenango Valley Cemetery, Binghamton, N.Y. on September 25, 2015. Memorial donations can be made to Lower Cape Fear Hospice & Life Care Center, 1414 Physicians Drive, Wilmington, N.C. 28401.

The family would like to give special thanks to the staff at the Life Care Center for their compassionate and excellent care of Bill, along with the staff at Ocean Trail Independent Living, Southport.

Also, a very special thank you to Mrs. Brenda Crisco, who took care of his dog and is now her new Mom.

## Ted Gourley

“I have no idea when romance will end” is the opening line of Theodore Gourley’s unpublished memoirs. “Enduring love and an incurable curiosity about life and world cultures have been an essential part of my active life.”

A retired military officer with the United States Air Force and veteran of World War II, Theodore Gourley passed away on Monday morning, August 4, 2014, after a brief illness.

In recent years, Ted had begun to write his life story with the hope of leaving a legacy of memories for his family. He often marveled at his good fortune to have had such a rewarding and long life shared with his wife of 68 years. Josephine Gourley passed away in 2010.

Born in Clifton, New Jersey, he was the second son of Louise and Hugh Gourley. Louise was a ribbon weaver and his father, a shipping clerk in a linen factory. “My birth came four years after the silent movie Tillie’s Punctured Romance, the first full length comedy silent film released in 1914. His first memories, however, were of moving to the second floor of a two-family house near Paterson. He particularly remembered the trolley car that passed by the house, and the clip-clop of horses’ hoofs from the horse-drawn wagons and carriages.

Ted Gourley’s love affair with adventure began when he was just three years old—a journey by train from the East Coast to a farm in Volga, South Dakota. Ted spent his earliest years growing up on a farm, riding the family horse Lady to the one room school house, and of course, doing typical farm chores. From this humble beginning, Ted’s curiosity and love of life took root. He would instill his passion for learning to his children.

In 1935, as a young man of 17, he took a job with Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, Connecticut. He later admitted he fabricated some prior experience in sheet metal working in order to get hired. It would not be the last time that Ted Gourley would spin some “blarney.” He loved hearing—and telling—a good story. His years at Sikorsky fostered a real interest in flying. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, Ted worked for American Airlines in Chicago. He had earned his aircraft mechanic license and had seven years of experience in aviation. His position in aviation building meant he’d likely not be drafted into military service. His goal was to learn to just to build airplanes but to fly. He enlisted in the Aviation Cadet Program. He would advance in the United States Air Force during the war to pilot a B24 Bomber, known as “the liberator.” During one mission over Germany in November 1944, an emergency landing forced the B24 down behind enemy lines. He and his crew were reported Missing in Action.

After the war, Ted remained in the Air Force, advancing eventually to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During the Cold War years, he served in New Foundland, Massachusetts, Alabama, Hawaii, New Jersey, and the Azores. Retirement brought an opportunity to return to school and to the Midwest where he earned his Bachelor’s Degree. He taught at history, social studies, and foreign languages—he was fluent in Flemish, French and Spanish—in Evesham Township.

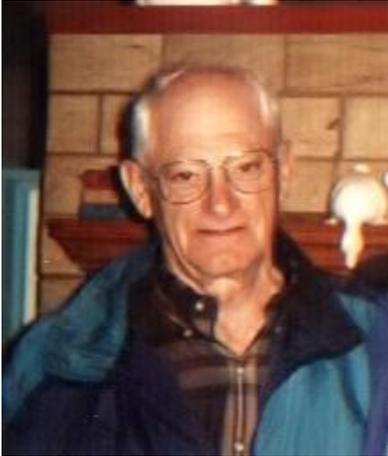
After his “second retirement,” Ted continued to led an adventurous life. He climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and sailed his catamaran, Jo Do Mar, through hurricane Beth. He had trekked through Nepal and crewed aboard a whale ship in the Caribbean. He truly had a life well lived. His memoirs, although not published, is indeed a legacy for his family and his many friends.

Surviving are his seven children: Dr. Theodore J. Gourley, Jr., Mt. Holly, NJ; Janice Gourley Shaffer, Escondido, CA; Dr. Dennis Radigan Gourley, Woodbridge, VA; Susan Marie Gourley-Damon, Chalfont, PA; Paula Gourley-Taylor Kristiniak, Williamstown, NJ; LTC. John H. Gourley, currently stationed at USAG Bavaria; and Kevin N. Gourley, Marburg, Germany. Additionally, he is survived by

seven grandchildren and five step-grandchildren; one great-grand daughter, and six step-great grandchildren. His brother Constance Gourley lives in West Patterson, NJ.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Sacred Heart RC Church, Mt. Holly. Interment followed in the NJ Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

## **Jack Greco**



Jack Greco, 94, of New Port Richey, FL passed away on November 11, 2015 at Mease Countryside Hospital in Safety Harbor, FL. Born in Brooklyn, NY he was a longtime resident there, he also lived for a while in Hammonton, NJ. Mr. Greco was an U.S. Army Air Corps Veteran of World War II, achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant. He worked as a tailor and fitter for Paul Stewart's Men's Clothing on Madison Avenue in New York before retiring. He was predeceased by his wife, Anna Greco (nee Cavuto). He is survived by his son, James Greco (Valerie) of Palm Harbor, FL, and one brother, Anthony Greco of Brooklyn, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Parish Church of St. Joseph's in Hammonton. Burial followed at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hammonton.

## **Sam Harris**



July 12th, 1924 - September 23rd, 2016 He was buried next to his Wife Shirley, Love of His Life, Graveside Service. The US Flag was draped over his casket and presented to His grandson Jordan. A picture of Sam's Crew was placed in the Casket, as His Military Service & Close relationship with his Crew Meant Everything to him. He was so proud of his Service, Crew and 93rd BG. He is survived by his 3 Children (Janet, Harold & Marla), 6 Grand Children and 4 Great Grandchildren.

## Willard Hunzeker



Willard F. Hunzeker, 95, passed away November 13, 2016. Willard was born on April 6, 1921 to Herbert and Margaret Hunzeker. He graduated from Humboldt High School and attended Peru State College. Willard was called to serve the Army Air Force in 1942. His record of service is noteworthy. He flew 33 missions in the European Theatre as a navigator on B-24 bombers and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the air medal with 3 clusters for his service. He was a member of the 93rd Bomb Group, one of the most famous World War II aviation units.

Upon his release from active duty, Willard completed his degree in Education and received his Master's Degree in School Administration. Willard had a 36 year career in education. He taught in Falls City, DuBois, and Endicott, and served as Superintendent of Schools in Daykin, Fullerton and his last 14 years in Wahoo, retiring in 1985.

Community service was important to Willard. He served on the Saunders County Hospital Board, the Wahoo Public Library Board, was an active member of First Presbyterian Church and a member of the Wahoo Lions Club. In recognition of his service and leadership, Willard received the Melvin James Fellow award from the Wahoo Lions Club and was recently awarded the Charlie Divis Distinguished Service Award by the Wahoo Public Schools Foundation.

Willard was preceded in death by his wife Marjorie. He is survived by children, Mark (Pam) Hunzeker of Lincoln and Julie (Roger) Pelster of Mead, grandchildren Dr. Christopher (Flora) Hunzeker, Shanna (Judah) Musick, Jake (Wendy) Rickard, Erik Rickard, and eight great grandchildren.

Celebration of Life Memorial Services was held on Monday, November 21 at First Presbyterian Church, Wahoo. Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, Wahoo Public Schools Foundation or Wahoo Lions Club.

## PAUL E. KARTMAN

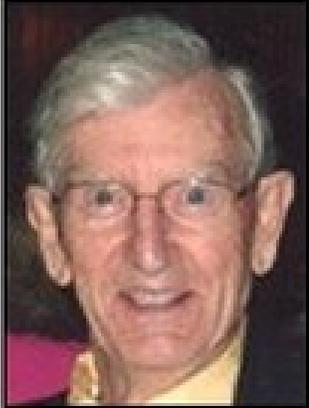
**Age: 95 • East Millstone**

Mr. Paul Kartman, 95, passed away Jan. 21, 2013 at Princeton Medical Center. Born in St. Paul, MN, Mr. Kartman graduated from North Plainfield High School. He'd been a resident of the East Millstone section of Franklin Twp. since 1958. Mr. Kartman was a veteran with over 30 years of distinguished service, having been a Prisoner of War during WWII in the Army Air Corp., as well as serving with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He had a long career as a facilities maintenance technician for the U.S. Department of Defense. Mr. Kartman was a member of Christian Community Chapel and New Horizon Christian Fellowship, both in Hillsborough. Mr. Kartman was predeceased by his wife, Theresa, in 2001. He is survived by his children: Paul, David and Tom Kartman; by his sister, Carol; his grandchildren, David and Amy Kartman; and by his great-grandson, David. Visitation was held Jan. 23, 2013 at the Gleason Funeral Home, Somerset, NJ. The funeral service was held at Christian Community Chapel, Hillsborough, NJ. Burial took place in Cedar Hill Cemetery in East Millstone.

Please consider donations to Mr. Kartman's parishes at [www.newhorizonag.org](http://www.newhorizonag.org) or [www.christiancommunitychapel.org](http://www.christiancommunitychapel.org).

**Charles (Pat) Macbeth Murphy** Died 3/5/2010 No further information available

**Robert Emmitt OBERSCHMID**



Age 93 of St. Paul Passed away peacefully August 27th 2014. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, grand-father, great-grandfather and friend. He will always be remembered and missed in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. A WWII Army Air Corp B-24 Captain, Lt. Col R.E.

Oberschmid served our country proudly for 25 yrs. Robert is survived by his loving wife Jeanne of 67 yrs; children, Maribeth Vidiakitis, David (Kelley) Oberschmid, Nancy (Donnie) Erickson; grand-children Charley (Rena) Cummings, Marinos, Demetri, & Nicholas Vidiakitis; Brian(Heather) Oberschmid, Bailey(A.J.)Petersen & Breanna(Nate) Bauerly; Elizabeth, Bobby, & D.J. Erickson; great grandchildren, Madison and Jackson Oberschmid & Althea Cummings. Service Saturday, September 6th at BRADSHAW CELEBRATION OF LIFE CENTER, Stillwater. Private Interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials preferred to Wounded Warriors. 2800 Curve Crest Blvd, Stillwater 651-439-5511 - See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/twincities/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=172305895#sthash.GsHJhyD2.dpuf>

**Angelo H Rodrigue**

**1913-1977**



Funeral services for Angelo H. Rodrigue, a native of Edgard and owner of the Photo-Art shop in McComb, Miss. were conducted in McComb. Mr. Rodrigue died Thursday at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Jackson, Miss. Angelo was in the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Photographic section.

A long-time member and past-president of the McComb Noon Lions Club, Mr. Rodrigue had been associated with the photography store since 1926. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Douglas Rapstine, White Deer, Tex., and Miss Angela Rodrigue, Natchez, Mis.; eight brothers and sisters,

Mrs. M. J. Taussin, Metairie; Mrs. Larry Skolaski, Houston, Tex.; Richard Rodrigue, New Orleans; Stan Rodrigue, Edgard; Edwina Rodrigue, Jackson, and Teresa and Ada Cecile Rodrigue, both of McComb; and two grandchildren.

### **John N. Romano**



Dr. John Romano, DDS, 91, of Streamwood died August 16, 2015; loyal husband of the late Elaine; dedicated father of Nancy (Emilio) Giannini, Barbara J. (Terry) Lavin, James (Wendy) and Joseph (Mary); loving grandfather of 10 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren; fond brother of the late Joe L. (Flora) and the late Ronald R. (the late Katherine). He owned his own dental practice in Oak Park. His days off were often spent golfing with friends. He was a proud WWII veteran completing 35 missions over Germany. Funeral services were held at St. John the Evangelist Church. Cremation private at the Countryside Crematory. Donations to Wounded Warriors would be appreciated.

### **Wallace J. Spencer**



Spencer, Wallace J. Mar. 9, 1921 - Aug. 9, 2015 Wallace J. Spencer, 94, of Venice, Florida passed away peacefully at home. Wally is survived by his wife Shelagh, seven children, 13 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Wally proudly served in the U.S. Air Force as a Bombardier with the 93rd Bomb Group. His plane was shot down and he became a POW and was liberated a short time later. Wally received the Purple Heart and retired as a Lt. Colonel. Wally served as a US Diplomat in Bonn, Germany and the Bahamas, as an IRS attache. Wally and Shelagh have lived in the Venice & Englewood areas for 27yrs. Wally loved a good game of bridge, dancing, good music and just really enjoyed life and spending time with Shelagh, family and friends. Services will be held at the Sarasota National Veterans cemetery at a later date. - See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/heraldtribune/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=175486380#sthash.P1hZKldl.dpuf>

## Walter T. Stewart



Colonel Walter Travis Stewart, 98, passed away peacefully Saturday, January 9, surrounded by family. He was born in Benjamin, Utah, at the old family farm, on November 8, 1917, in the same house that he lived most of his life. He was the tenth of twelve children born to Otto Ren and Millicent Tollstrup Stewart. He grew up in a loving home that was full of great memories that stayed with him all of his life. He talked fondly of the family sitting around the old stove playing games and singing songs. His family provided the foundation he would use to live his life: love of family, county, and of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

His education was in Provo and Salt Lake, graduating from South High in 1935. He finished with a bachelor and then a law degree at the University of Utah. His university studies were interrupted first by a mission and then by [WWII](#). His mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was to Scotland, in 1937. When World War II broke out in Europe, he was sent to the Eastern States Mission, and finished in West Virginia.

Military service brought the most memorable experiences of his life. Watching a military airplane fly overhead, he decided he wanted to serve in the War in a plane rather than on the ground. He was trained as a pilot at Victorville, California in 1941. He entered the war being assigned to the 93rd bomb group to fly B-24 bombers. His greatest friend of his life, Hugh Rawlin Roper was in the cockpit with him as they flew 18 missions together, based out of Hardwick, England. He later got to Pilot his own plane, and he named it "The Utah Man" after his beloved University. He finished with 32 missions, his second to last one being the deadly low-level bombing of Ploesti, August 1, 1943. He spent the rest of his life telling the story of courage, sacrifice, and honor from that day. He earned the Distinguished Service Cross for that mission.

He met Ruth Francis on a blind date in California, and they later married December 14, 1944 in the Salt Lake Temple. Together they raised 5 children. Although Walt had a law degree, he loved the construction business. He was a general contractor from the time of his graduation from the U until 1962. He built many homes and businesses all over the state of Utah. With his construction training, the LDS Church called his young family to build chapels in Norwich, England and Flensburg, Germany between 1962-1966. The family came home to Benjamin and he finished his career as a seminary and institute teacher until retirement in 1985.

Their retired years brought two more missions, to Ghana, Africa in 1987-88, and Sierra Leone, in 1990-91. After serving five missions, the golden years brought time to run his farm in Benjamin and visit grandchildren, whom they loved, 29 in all.

Walter died the day of his oldest son's funeral. He is preceded in death by all his siblings, but just barely; his 103 year old sister, Roselle Stewart Judkins, died a week earlier and he attended her funeral. Also preceding him in death was his second son Scott (Valerie Neel), his wife Ruth, and his

oldest son, Walter Jr. (Marcia Nielson) died 10 days previous to him. He is survived by daughters Sally Buhler (Slade) and Alexandra Dedrickson (Steve), and son Samuel (Laura Long). The family would like to thank the kind staff and volunteers at the Veterans home in Payson, and at Mountain View Hospital. Their tears at his passing showed the love they had for our father. The entertainment level at the center has dropped without his spirit gracing its halls. Funeral services were be held at the Benjamin Chapel West Benjamin, Utah Saturday, January 16, Condolences may be sent to the family at: [www.walkerobits.com](http://www.walkerobits.com)  
Published in Deseret News from Jan. 13 to Jan. 15, 2016

## They will be missed!



## **GREETINGS FROM THE 93<sup>RD</sup> BG HISTORIAN!**

### **Role of the Historian and Research Assistance**

Over the past few months, we have received quite a bit of feedback from the surveys sent to the membership, and the results were very interesting. In the survey, there was a section that dealt with the historian and finding information about our veterans. It seems this might be a good opportunity to explain a bit about what the current historian does.

As a person who has been interested in all things 93<sup>rd</sup> since I was a youngster, asking my grandfather endless questions about his service, reading every book I could find, many trips to archives; I have accumulated an extensive collection of materials. Most of my collection is a result of my research and purchases of material over the last 30 plus years. When a veteran has been generous enough to share their photos and documents with me, I make reproductions of that material and send the originals back to the source. Because of this continual collection of photos and documents, I have a depth of information that allows me to help family members find out about their veteran's service. If you have any questions, just ask. I will do all I can to assist you directly and will also suggest where else you may find information. I help 93<sup>rd</sup> BG veterans and their family members of 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Association. I also help non-members as a recruitment effort for the **Best** Bomb Group Association!

### **FREE Memorabilia cataloging and Research**

I am willing to scan any documents, records and photos of a 93<sup>rd</sup> 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 CDs 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 93<sup>rd</sup> 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.

*Cheers, Don Morrison*

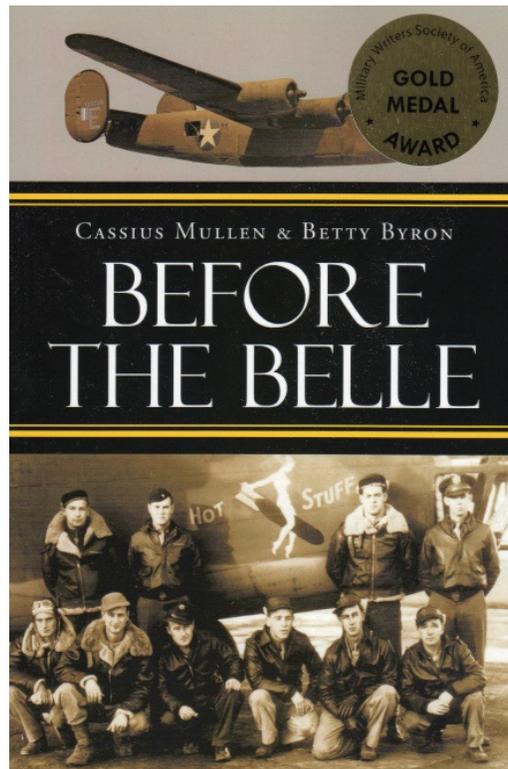


*Going out to the Bomb Dump*



*Ground crew (bomb Dump) Ralph Poss GA, Earnst Scoles VT, Harry Vanderhaar OH, Glenn Bonnes SD, Rudy Doubrava MI*

# HOT STUFF MEMORIAL MONUMENT PROJECT UPDATE



## ***Before the Belle* Receives Gold Medal**

The late Cassius Mullen and his wife Betty Byron, authors of *Before the Belle*, received the prestigious Gold Medal award from the Military Writers Society of America.

## ***Hot Stuff* Memorial Golf Tournament Scheduled**

The final Jacobson/*Hot Stuff* Memorial Golf Tournament fund raiser will take place on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at Lost Creek Country Club in Austin, Texas. Contact Jim Lux for additional information:

[hotstuff.memorial@gmail.com](mailto:hotstuff.memorial@gmail.com)

Phone: 512-327-1750

## **Monument Centerpiece Going To Iceland**

The centerpiece of the memorial monument, an 8 foot stainless steel model of *Hot Stuff*, will be heading to Iceland in March thanks to the generosity of Icelandair. Terry Hinde, the sculptor who built the model is making a custom crate to protect the model during transit.

S. Helgason Monument Company in Iceland will begin construction of the stone portion of the monument shortly. Hopefully, photographs showing the monument under construction will be available for publication in the next newsletter.

### Memorial Monument Dedication Tour

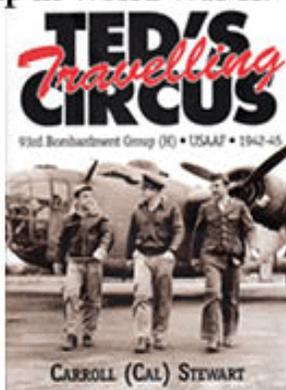
At this point, seventy people have shown interest in attending the monument dedication in Iceland in 2018. Jim is working on a package tour(s) with G.T. Travel Agency in Iceland. He is proposing a four or five day tour that would include air and ground transportation, hotel and meals. He is also looking at options such as a trip to the crash site and/or a helicopter ride over the site. Other options may include a tour of the beautiful city of Reykjavik, a tour of the world famous Golden Circle and a visit to the Blue Lagoon spa, the biggest tourist attraction in Iceland.

### Still Accepting Tax Deductible Donations

More than 300,000 Americans visited Iceland last year and a greater number are expected this year. Most Americans and tourists from around the world will be driving by location of the monument. Tour bus drivers are already talking about it. What a great way to get recognition for the Hot Stuff, Gen. Andrews and the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG.

Although there is nearly enough in the fund to pay for the monument, additional donations are needed for amenities such as flag poles, protection around the monument and landscaping. Your donation will help ensure the memorial monument becomes a prime tourist stop.

You will receive a copy of Ted's Travelling Circus with a donation of \$250 or more. This rare book is a comprehensive history of the 93rd Bombardment Group in World War II.



### Hot Stuff/Gen. Andrews Memorial Monument Donation Form (Print and cut out)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable To:  
93rd Bombardment Group Association.

Send to: 93rd Bombardment Group Association  
995 Cottonwood Lane  
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 91601

Donations may be made through PayPal on the  
Hot Stuff/Gen. Andrews website at:  
[www.b24hotstuff.wikispaces.com](http://www.b24hotstuff.wikispaces.com)

Donate

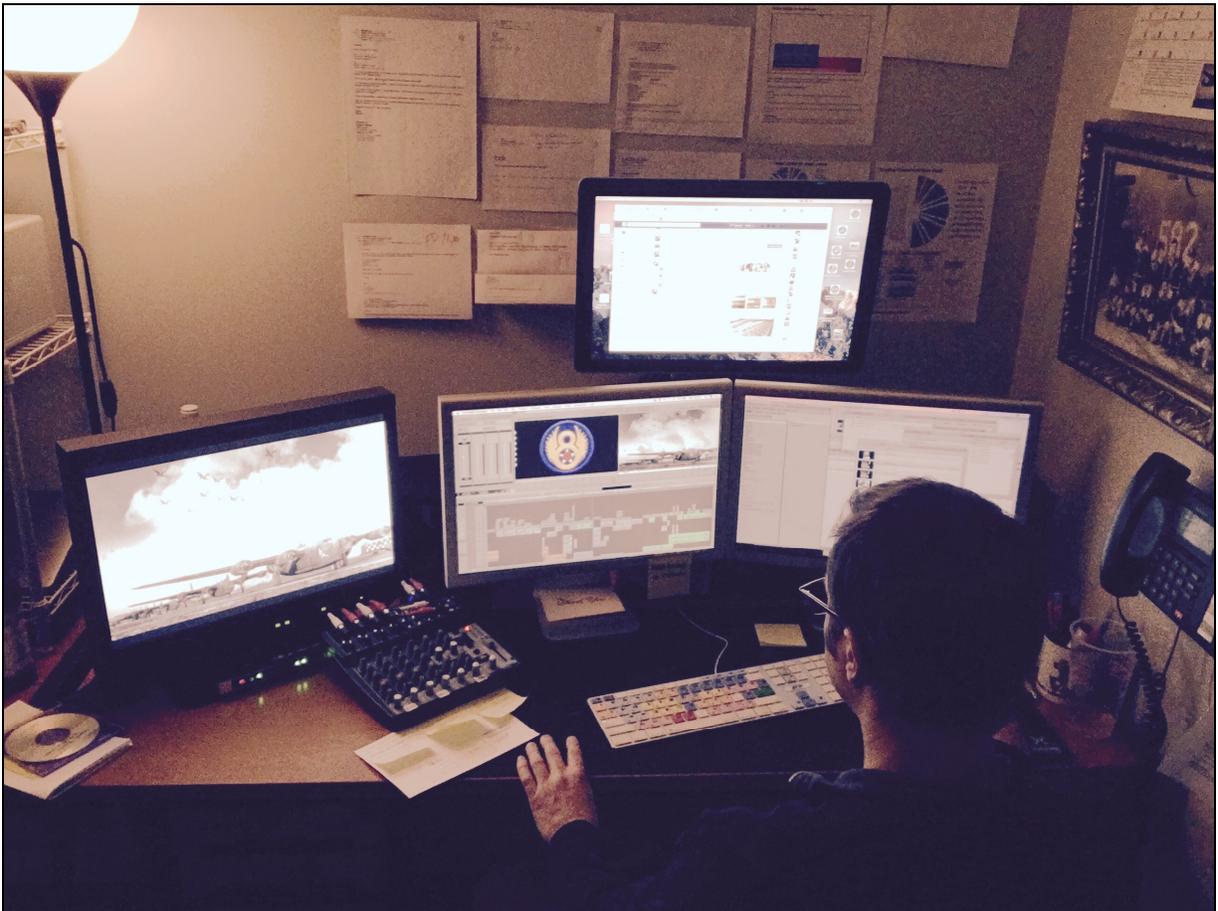


## 93RD WEBSITE & FILM PROJECT

At the time of writing this article - 103,401 people have visited the 93rd Bomb Group website since it's redesign in 2009. We have tracked visitors all the way from Niedersachsen, Germany! The membership page has been updated. Please remember that if you want to renew your membership you can do it through the 93rd website. It's easy, it's fast and all done through PayPal which is safe and secure. Options for membership - Annual for \$25 or a 2 year discount is \$45. Also on the membership page is a donation button. If you wish to just give a donation to the group do it by clicking "Donate". The 93rd Association appreciates anyone and everyone contributing to this fantastic group!

### "Hardwick Aerodrome 104"

Documentary Update: For the month of January I have been restructuring the first half of the documentary. We had a fantastic screening at the 93rd's group reunion in San Antonio last fall. After the screening we conducted a Q&A session and had people fill out comments cards. The suggestions we got were excellent and I took a lot of them to heart. One of the first things I did is started to look at areas that were redundant or maybe out of order and then started to cut the "fat". I was able to get to a comfortable length and leave room for the next half I'm putting together. New Orleans here we come!



Thank you!

Michael Sellers

[www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com) [www.hardwickfilm.com](http://www.hardwickfilm.com)

## MEMBERSHIP

Currently we have 193 paid members. Of those, 6 are new members since December 2016.

We continue to collect the surveys and thank you for your input. Feedback is always useful.

Remember, we are all part of the Membership Committee, so please encourage relatives and interested friends to join the 93rd BGA. As you know, we are a fun group.

### **New Members**

Katy Glenn, daughter of veteran, Louis F. Long

John Huffman

Susan McLean, daughter of veteran, George McLean

Anne Pancell, daughter of veteran, Paul R. Steichen

Susan Steichen, daughter of veteran, Paul R. Steichen

Robert Timmer, nephew of veteran, Robert Timmer

Kendra Trexler, granddaughter of veteran, Robert A. Osbahr

Jean Koznarek



44-40480 GO T 328<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron "I'll Get By"

**93<sup>RD</sup> BG MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**&**  
**BALL OF FIRE QUARTERLY EXPRESS SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Year 2017**

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of 93<sup>rd</sup> veteran \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ Time period in Service: \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

Airplane Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Crew Chief(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Comments (list crew if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks!

*(use back side for more info)*

Annual Membership	\$25 \$ _____	
2 year discount rate (2017 & 2018)	\$45 \$ _____	
Tax deductible Donation	\$ _____	(The 93 <sup>rd</sup> is a 501(c)(3) Organization)

**GRAND TOTAL**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ *Please MAIL newsletter*      \_\_\_ *Please E-MAIL newsletter*

**Make checks payable to: 93<sup>rd</sup> BOMB GROUP** (Also pay by PayPal through the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group website)

Mail to: Jean Koznarek  
 93<sup>rd</sup> 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 BASIS**