



May 2017

### GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

Here we are already preparing for our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reunion which will be held in Kansas City, Kansas. This year the 344<sup>th</sup> BG will not be joining us. We have also invited various members from within the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG.

Our Directory has some more changes and additions (see pages 7 & 8), thank you to everyone with your input. With your assistance we can keep our directory current and we will continue to pass along all up-dates for our directory in the next newsletter. So, if you know of any information, in our current directory that's not correct please contact me preferably by email at [kville93@centurylink.net](mailto:kville93@centurylink.net) or you can call me at 480-984-3676 and leave a voice message and I will return your call as soon as possible.

### Our Mail Bag News

Mary Moench – Sends everyone her love and a big hello, enjoys the newsletters

## **454<sup>th</sup> B.S. 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reunion at Kansas City, KS.**

Here is the information and facts about our Reunion location, the Hotel we will be staying at this year is the Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel. We will have complimentary shuttle service available to and from the airport. There will also be limited complimentary shuttle service when available.

Our room rates this year are as follows:

Room	Single Rate	Double Rate	Triple Rate	Quad Rate
Standard Rooms	\$96.50	\$104.00	\$111.50	\$119.00

The reason for the different rates are due to the fact we had to include breakfast per person for each room. The breakfast is a buffet breakfast which is normally \$14.95 plus tax and gratuity. Our discounted rate is \$7.50 per person, this is the full buffet breakfast and includes taxes and gratuity. However, our rates do not include a \$1.50 per room per night charge and applicable taxes currently at 16.225%.

Arrival – check-in time 3:00PM and our check-out time is 12:00PM.

### **Schedule of Events**

#### **TOURS and EVENTS – Kansas City, Kansas Reunion**

This is the first year we have no scheduled Tours and Events due to the fact that at our last annual meeting (Tulsa, OK.) our members preferred that we no longer have scheduled tours and informal dinners. Also this year, we will not have our Annual Banquet Dinner on Saturday night, this too was voted on and the majority of members wanted to spend more time together rather than have a Banquet Dinner.

Our only scheduled event is our annual business meeting.

**Thursday Sep 14**      **2:00pm**      **Hospitality Room Opens**

**Saturday Sep 16**      **10:00am**      **Annual Business Meeting**  
                                 **11:30am**      **Hospitality Room Opens or after meeting**  
                                 **12:00am**      **or when no one in Hospitality Room**

**454<sup>th</sup> Reunion Registration 2017– Kansas City, MO.**  
**Mail to: 8250 E. Obispo Avenue Mesa, AZ 85212**  
**Inquiries, George Cornett (480)-984-3676**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Name Tag Names (if needed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee \$10.00 (Complimentary Hospitality Room)**

**Total Enclosed # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ Make Checks to 454<sup>th</sup> BSA (Can be paid at reunion)**

**Person Contact, Emergency**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Free Airport Shuttle Service (call hotel after luggage pick-up, 816- 891-8900 then 1)**  
**Southwest 1-800 435-9792, American 1-800-443-7300, many others service Kansas City**

**Hotel Accommodation Reservation – Kansas City, MO. 2017**  
**454<sup>th</sup> Airforce Reunion (Code 454 AFR), 1-816-891-8900 then 2**  
**Hotel Reservation Cut Off Date (to secure discounted rate) is Aug 24, 2017**

<b>Main Dates, Sept 14 Thurs – Sept 16 Sat</b>	<b>Hilton Kansas City Airport</b>
<b>454<sup>th</sup> Air Force Reunion (4 nights)</b>	<b>8801 NW 112<sup>th</sup> Street</b>
	<b>Kansas City, MO. 64153</b>
<b>Room Rate Avail, Sept 11 - Sept 20</b>	<b>Hotel Direct 816-891-8900</b>

**The following information needed to make a reservation – up to 4 guests per room**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ # of persons in Room \_\_\_\_ # beds, Rooms \_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Check in, at 3pm Check Out, Noon  
Name, if shared room \_\_\_\_\_ Rate – see chart on page 2 and attachment 1  
Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Depart Date \_\_\_\_\_ A First Night's Deposit Is Required

**Hotel Parking Free of Charge Special Rate Buffet Breakfast \$7.50, Usually \$14.95**  
**Complimentary Airport Shuttle Hotel Shuttle, nearby Eateries When Available**

**Can call hotel front desk, 816-891-8900 9/5p M-F, if you have a special request issue.**

## Final Flights & Obituaries

It is always a sad time when we lose loved ones. These are some more of our finest that we have the disappointing news to pass along to you. They will not be with us at our future reunions physically, but will be with us in spirit and their special stories they have shared with all of us. **GOD BLESS!**



Pablo Castillo, 92 of Sterling passed Sunday February 5, 2017 at CGH Medical Center in Sterling, IL. He was born on January 15, 1925 in San Benito, TX the son of Jose Guadalupe and Maria Carmen (Castillo) Gonzales. He married Severina Rodriguez on September 27, 1952 at St. Mary Church in Sterling. In 1943, Pablo joined the Army Air Corps. Inducted in San Antonio, he went thru basic training and air mechanics school in Wichita Falls, TX and gunnery school in Ft. Myers, FL. After training, he shipped overseas in a B-26 as part of the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron. Flying in 26 missions, his flight group flew in support of ground troops in the Battle of the Bulge. After V-E Day, Pablo returned to San Benito, TX. After the war, he planned to go to the Chicago area but took a detour to Sterling because of job opportunities. He was employed by Northwestern Steel and Wire Company for 38 ½ years. He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Sterling, American Legion and VFW. He found his true love at a dance and he vowed he would marry that lovely young woman someday. He did and was joined in marriage to Severina Rodriguez on September 27, 1952. They enjoyed almost 65 years together while raising their six children. In his free time, away from work, he spent hiking, picnicking and enjoying meals around the family table. After his retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his children and 11 grandsons and 1 granddaughter. Survivors include his wife, Serverina; four daughters: Adele (Mike) Eklund of Glendale, WI, Sue (Bruce) Shevlin of Springfield, IL; Michele (Tim) Henerekin of DeForest, WI and Teresa (Howard) Craft of Sterling, IL; one son, Paul (Peggy) Castillo of Woodbury, MN; one sister Ruth (Art) Durocher of Howell, MI; one brother, Luz (Patti) Gonzales of Muskegon, MI; 12 grandchildren and 3

great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents; a daughter Rose Ann; and sisters: Rachel Rodriguez and Ramona Garibay; and brother Leonard.



**MARGARET BURNS HARLAN** of **OKLAHOMA CITY** Jan 28, 1920 –Dec 21, 2015, 95, passed December 21st , surrounded by family. Margaret was born Jan 28, 1920 in Zwolle, LA. She married Ross Edgar Harlan on May 31, 1942. The Harlans moved to Okla City in 1948 where they raised their four children. They were active members of Putnam City United Methodist Church. Margaret served others in countless ways and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.



**LaVerne Esther Howard**

December 18, 1920 - September 15, 2016

LaVerne E. Howard, 95, of Stevensville, MI passed away Thursday, September 15, 2016 at Golden Age Manor in Stevensville.

LaVerne was born on December 18, 1920 to Adam and Esther (Bartz) Reimer in Stevensville. She was a graduate of Stevensville High School in 1938. LaVerne wed Gerald Howard in 1941. She worked in the accounting department at Heath Company for 20 years before retiring. LaVerne was an involved member of Stevensville United Methodist Church and The Lincoln Township Library FRIENDS Group. She enjoyed baking, gardening and traveling. The family would like to thank Tim and Ferny Rantz and the staff at Golden Age Manor for their wonderful care they provided LaVerne the last 3 years.

LaVerne is survived by her son Gerald (Janis) Howard II of Fennville, MI; daughter Judy Grimmatt of Stevensville; grandchildren Martin (Jennifer) Howard, Cory Howard, Jason Grimmatt, and Colleen McGuire; 10 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.



**Betty J. Inman**, 90, April 18, 1926 - November 24, 2016

a longtime Martinsville resident, passed peacefully from this life surrounded by her loving family on Thursday, November 24, 2016 at 8:54 a.m. at the St. Francis South Hospital in Indianapolis. She was born April 18, 1926 in Bedford, IN to the late Orlando “Cat” and Thelma (Swango) Cazee. Betty was a dedicated homemaker, mother, wife and grandmother. She retired in 1988 after 15 years of employment from RCA in Bloomington. She then worked several years as a quality

control inspector for Harmon Motive in Martinsville. She was a longtime active member of the Eastview Christian Church in Martinsville where she enjoyed attending bible study and Sunday school classes and volunteering for many years at the church library. She was also a member of the Morgan County Public Library Book Club.

Betty’s greatest joy was time shared with her family, watching the Indianapolis Colts games, playing games, traveling and attending her grandchildren’s sporting events. Betty was blessed to have traveled nearly every state within the United States. On November 17, 1964, she married Richard Harold Inman; he preceded her in death on May 20,, 2010. She leaves behind a host of loving family, friends and many she loved and considered family including daughters, Debra Kennedy Martin and husband Bill and Karen Kennedy Dransfield of Martinsville, Linda Kennedy Young and husband Joe of Greenwood, IN and Sharon Inman and husband David of Portville, NY; one son, Michael Inman and wife Denise of Dansville, NY; cousin, Paul Swango of Martinsville; daughter-in-law, Mickey Inman of NY; seventeen grandchildren and several great and great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brother, Charles Cazee; son, Mark Inman and son-in-law, Tom Dransfield. She will be laid to rest at New South Park Cemetery in Martinsville.com.

**Additional Notifications without Obituaries received:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Date Received:</b>	<b>Date of Passing:</b>
Marks, Fay	1-19-17	???

## **Directory Updates:**

We have received the following changes since the publishing of our December 2013 Newsletter; please update your directory as follows:

### Section 1 page 4 – Replace Old Address

#### **Old**

KLINE, Nathan  
3332 Trexler Blvd.  
Allentown, PA. 18104-3414

#### **New**

KLINE, Nathan  
450 N Krock Road Unit # 336  
Allentown, PA. 18106-8938

### Section 1 page 6- New Address & Phone Number

#### **Old**

NATTO, Merlyn E.  
1085 Mayflower Ave.  
Melbourne, FL. 32940-6731  
407-255-6925

#### **New**

NATTO, Merlyn E.  
1700 Wuesthoff Dr.  
Melbourne, FL. 32940-6709  
321-255-6925

## **Missing Members**

This is a section where we will list the names and addresses for newsletters mailed out and returned. If you know someone on this list please contact me with an updated address or have them contact me direct if they wish. Their name will only appear in one newsletter after that if they have not been updated then they will be removed from our mailing list.

Ms. Mary Kalman  
119 Shafer Road  
Corapolis, PA. 15108-1056  
1-13-17

Ms. Helen Charleston  
1421 Arlington Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL. 32211-6307  
1-18-17

Mr. Richard Erickson  
261 Old Country Way  
Braintree, MA. 02184-8333  
1-20-17

Ms. Harriet J. Jasper  
1025 Cypress Court  
Burlington, WA. 98233  
2-2-17

Mr. William Carriero  
1919 Boston Street SE Apt. B307  
Grand Rapids, MI. 49506-4191  
2-3-17

Ms. Mary Evans  
4220 Edge Hill Avenue  
Baltimore, MD. 21211-1517  
3-27-17

## **Financial Report**

Here is our financial report to date for 2017. We would like to thank everyone for their past contributions because that's what keeps us going strong with our organization. I'm sure our next report will be much longer because as the year continues so will our contributions and expenses.

### **Contributions Jan 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Moench, Mary	\$100.00
McLeod, Stan	\$100.00
Bozych, Roy	\$20.00
McLeod, Stan	\$35.00
Kirk, Elizabeth	\$80.00

If there were contributions from January 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017 sent that are not posted please contact me (George Cornett) at below address or call me at 480-984-3676.

If you wish to make a contribution to the 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron Association please send to 454<sup>th</sup> BSA c/o George Cornett 8250 E. Obispo Ave. Mesa AZ 85212-1618.

The below balance does not include the cost printing for this Newsletter for mailing.

<b>Balance as of Jan. 1, 2017</b>	<b>\$10,911.78</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>\$335.00</b>
<b>Reunion Monies Rcvd.</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$335.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$387.70</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$10,859.08</b>



## **Our Elected Board Members**

### **Current BoardMembers:Previous Board Members:**

President\_\_\_\_\_ Vacant  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President\_\_\_ Howard Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President\_\_\_ Frankie Mancuso  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President \_\_\_ Robert “Bob” Johnson  
Secretay/Treasurer\_\_\_ George Cornett  
Historian\_\_\_\_\_ Roy Bozych  
Sergeant-at-Arms \_\_\_\_ Merlin McDonald

President\_\_\_\_\_ Frank Johnson  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President\_\_\_ Howard Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President\_\_\_ Frankie Mancuso  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President\_\_\_ Bob Johnson  
Secretary/Treasurer\_\_\_ George Cornett  
Historian\_\_\_\_\_ Roy Bozych  
Sergeant-at-Arms \_\_\_\_ David Garvin

George Cornett  
8250 E Obispo Avenue  
Mesa, AZ 85212-1618  
480-984-3676  
[kville93@centurylink.net](mailto:kville93@centurylink.net)



# HISTORIAN'S HANGER

Roy Bozych - Squadron Historian



*Spring 2017*

## 75 Years Ago Today



Time keeps rolling on and on. This past December 7<sup>th</sup> marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It was also the first in a series of historical 75<sup>th</sup> historical events that will be commemorate between now and September 2020.



In the beginning of May I was lucky enough to be able to revisit the USS Arizona Memorial. The Memorial was built over the remains of the USS Arizona and was dedicated on Memorial Day 1962. It is the resting place for many of the 1,777 crewmen killed during the Japanese surprise attack on Sunday morning December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1942.

For those of you who have visited the memorial in the past, but haven't been there in a while, you will be pleasantly surprised by all the changes that have been made to the site. The original visitor's center opened in 1979. The ensuing years and large numbers of visitors, over one million per year, took its toll on the on the visitors center. It was too small for the amount of artifacts that they had on display. Plus it was slowly sinking into the landfill on which it was built. The original theater was kept. The old visitor's center was torn down. Additional land was added to the site which now encompasses 17 acres. The new visitor's center was opened and dedicated on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

The added land allow for the additions of many new buildings including those with historic exhibit information. They are the Road to War and Attack exhibit buildings.

There is also a new museum for the USS Bowfin submarine. A new ticket center, book and gift shop were added. And don't forget about tour of the USS Bowfin itself.

The site is still part of the US National Park Service but has been renamed the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. It not only covers Pearl Harbor but also preserves other stories from the Pacific War from Hawaii to the Aleutians. On Ford Island you can find memorials for the USS Missouri, USS Oklahoma, USS Utah, and the new Pacific Aviation Museum which includes the famous Hangar 79. When you watch John Ford's film about the attack on Pearl Harbor, this is the hanger that was strafed by the Japanese during the film. The bullet marks and holes in the glass hangar windows are still visible today.

Additional and more detailed information and videos can be found at the following websites:



Pacific Historic Parks

<http://www.pacifichistoricparks.org/>

WWII Valor in the Pacific Memorial

<https://www.nps.gov/valr/index.htm>



For those of you who visit Hawaii in the future you may find that some of the hotels or resorts will welcomed the women with a traditional Lei Ceremony. The Lei is sometimes also presented when attending a Hawaiian Luau. So now the welcoming ceremony or luau is over. What to do with those beautiful flower lei. Might I offer a suggestion if you are plan on visiting the USS Arizona Memorial. After your welcome or luau put your lei in the room refrigerator. This will keep them kind of fresh for a few days. Then the day you visit the Arizona Memorial take the lei with you. Once on the memorial you can lay the lei on one of the two small side altars in the memorial room

that lists of all the sailors killed that day. Or you can cut the string that holds the flowers together, slide the flowers off and drop them into the water over the USS Arizona. There is usually a park ranger or a volunteer on the memorial who can cut the string for you if you need help. I cannot think of a better or more Hawaiian, or patriotic

way of paying homage to all those sailors who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941.

## **Doolittle Raid**



Continuing with events that happened 75 years ago, the next major event that happened was the Doolittle Raid that took place on April 18, 1942. The date that 11 B-25 Mitchell Bombers took off from the deck of the USS Hornet to bomb mainland Japan. These were very dark times for the United States. The Japanese had been moving down through the Pacific taking island after island. President Roosevelt was looking not only for a way to boost American morale but also to take the war to the enemy. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1942 then Colonel Jimmy Doolittle and his raiders provided that much needed moral boost to the U.S. While not inflicting a lot of damage it did cause loss of face for the Japanese military leaders and some chaos in that country. It also forced the

Japanese military to pull back some of their troops from the battlefield for the defense of the homeland.

Many of you may not know this but after that mission one of the Raiders became an original member of the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG and 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Frank Kappeler. Frank was the Navigator on the 11<sup>th</sup> B-25 to take off of the Hornet called "Hari Kar-ier" piloted by Charles Greening. His entire crew survived when they bailed out over China. "Hari Kar-ier" ended up crashing into the mountains. Nearly 250,000 Chinese were killed by Japanese troops as punishment for those who help the Raiders escape.

As I had mentioned early, on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, the new Pacific Aviation Museum recently opened. One of the displays at the museum is about and dedicated to the Doolittle Raiders. One of the artifacts on display is a diary that was signed by all the Raiders who attended the "Gathering of Eagles" reunion in 1986. In the picture above you will note that Frank's name is second, right under Richard Cole.

Today Richard Cole is the only Doolittle raider remains alive. He was 100 years old in June of 2016. There is an interview with him on the Doolittle Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/DoolittleTokyoRaiders>



Additional information about the Doolittle Raid can be found on the internet by doing a simple Google search or by going to their official website at:

<http://www.doolittleraider.com>

## ***Five Came Back***



Got Netflix? At the end of March Netflix released a three part documentary based on the 2014 book by journalist Mark Harris titled “Five Came Back: A Story of Hollywood and the Second World War. The book and film document the war experiences of five Hollywood film directors, Frank Capra, John Ford, John Huston, George Stevens, and William Wyler. Narrated by Meryl Streep and using archival film footage it discusses the impact that each of these directors had on the war effort.

Currently the documentary is only available in online download form. It has not been released to Netflix disc yet. However if you are an Amazon Prime member I believe it is also available to you through their film download subscription service.

The Three episodes are titled:

- 1-The Mission Begins
- 2-Combat Zones
- 3-The Price of Victory

Just a few of the films covered were:

- Battle of Midway – Ford
- Let There Be Light - Huston
- Prelude to War – Capra
- The Memphis Belle: A Story of a Flying Fortress – Wyler
- Nazi Concentration Camps – Stevens

Netflix is also making available for download most of the films that were covered by the documentary series. This series and the movies discussed in the series is a must see for anyone who truly has an interest in WWII history and the impact it had on mankind.

## **Dunkirk**



Also coming out this summer in July is another WWII film called “Dunkirk” produced and directed by Christopher Nolan. Obviously it covers the Battle of Dunkirk and is told from three perspectives, land, sea and air. Early reports are giving it good reviews.

This was one of Hitler’s greatest blunders during WWII. With the success of the blitzkrieg war the German’s had almost 400,000 British, French, Polish and Belgium troops bottled up on the beaches of Dunkirk in May of 1940. Easy target for the German Army and Artillery units to destroy. Several different theories have been advanced as to why this wasn’t done. Everything from Hitler was still hoping that Churchill would sign a peace treaty to Goering wanted to wipe out the remaining troops with his Luftwaffe. In short 338,226 troops escaped many of which would be back in France in June of 1944 to defeat Hitler.

## **WWII 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries**

A calendar of WWII 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events with additional information can be found on the Friends of the National WWII Memorial page at the address listed below:

<http://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/75th-calendar-of-events>

Until next Time...

***Keep ‘em Flying***



Roy R. Bozych  
49 E Lucas Dr.  
Palos Hills. IL 60465-3100  
708-870-6605

[Historian@323bg.org](mailto:Historian@323bg.org)

<http://www.323bg.org>



Pin



Patch

## 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron Order Form

- Pins are 1 inch in diameter
- Patches are 4 ½ inches in diameter and have an iron on backing

### 323<sup>rd</sup> BG Commemorative/Challenge Coin



Front



Back

- Coins are 1 ¾ inches in diameter, weigh .8 ounces and are made of brass with raised lettering. The front of the coin is highlighted with red, white and blue enamel.

### Prices Include Shipping

**Make Checks Payable  
To  
454<sup>th</sup> BSA**

Number of Pins \_\_\_\_ x \$5 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Patches \_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Coins \_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **apt #** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** \_\_\_\_\_

**mail to:**

Roy Bozych  
323<sup>rd</sup> BG Historian  
49 E. Lucas Dr.  
Palos Hills, IL 60465-3100

Phone 708-870-6605

email address [historian@323bg.org](mailto:historian@323bg.org)