



Est. July 1971 ▶ Bentonville, AR

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▶ Special Report

Don't Miss the 2016 State-Side Reunion - Washington, DC

June 15 - June 19, 2016

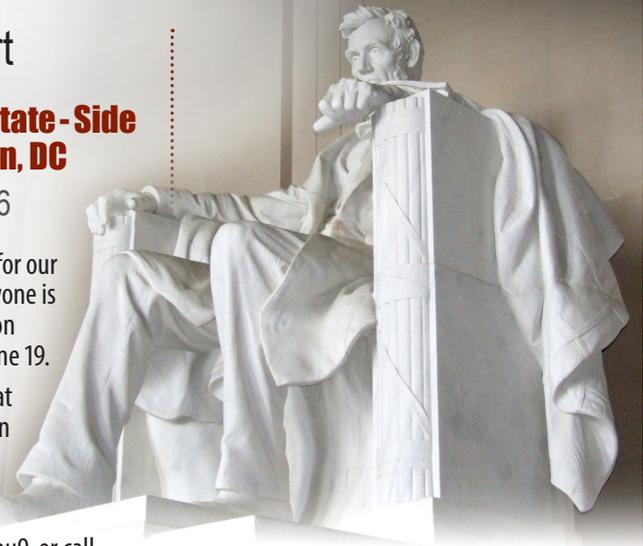
The time is here to make plans for our state-side reunion. I hope everyone is as excited to meet in Washington D.C. this year from June 15 to June 19.

Our "base of operation" will be at the Courtyard Marriott Arlington Crystal City, 2899 Jefferson Davis Highway Arlington, VA. Make your room reservations now at <http://tinyurl.com/zy15pu9> or call 1.800.321.2211. Fly into Reagan National Airport for convenient access to the hotel. The Marriott offers free shuttle service to hotel.

Early check-in will take place on June 15. Check-out on June 19. The room rate is \$129.00 single/double during the reunion. Make your reservations by May 18 in order to secure the reunion rate.

Turn the page to find out more about the events scheduled and how to register! Take advantage of all the city sights DC has to offer.

www.washington.org



▶ Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington Cemetery



▶ WWII Monument, the National Mall

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► President's Review

Dear Members,

As we approach our State-Side Reunion held in Washington D.C., I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many Reunions of past years...

My first reunion that I attended was held in Savannah in 1997. It was hosted by the "legendary" (my Dads words) Craig Harris! It was quite a time! Craig was president at the time and was quite a supporter of the new Mighty 8th Museum.

The years that followed included Gettysburg, Colorado Springs, Rapid City, Pensacola Beach, and of course many trips back to the Old Field at Glatton.

Each of those Reunions were very special to the Fluman Family. The memories will be there forever.

This June 15th we will be visiting Washington D.C. and have a wonderful schedule of events for our veterans, friends, and family all credited to the hard work of the Archuleta Family!

I am personally looking forward to seeing all of you this Reunion so together we may carry on the Legacy of the 457th BG Association!

Your President,
Will Fluman, Jr.

Visit the 457th website today at
www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

► We Like You

Like us on facebook!

by Justina Sechrist

Thank you everyone who follows us on facebook.

We started the facebook page in October 2011 and since then we've acquired nearly 1200 followers! It has become a hot spot for posts and pictures, and a forum for our 457th family and friends to gather, share stories, and ask questions.

If you haven't already - **like us today!**



Like us on facebook!

<http://tinyurl.com/qxvw9kw>

457th Bomb Group Association: Membership Dues & Subscription Form

► Dues

Annual Dues: \$25 per person (2 years)

Life Dues:

Age	Cost
under 60	\$110
61 - 65	\$90
60 - 70	\$75
71 +	\$60

► Mail form, check payable to:

Lori Barnett, Treasurer

457th Bomb Group Association
304 Old West Point Road, Starkville, MS 39759

check applicable:

- New membership
 Renewal Address Change

► Donations

Your Contributions Count!

The 457th Bomb Group Association continues to undertake new projects, as well as maintain those that have been completed over the years.

Please consider a donation to support our ongoing Projects Fund.

Contributions should be mailed to
[Lori Barnett, Treasurer.](#)

Name _____		Nickname _____		Spouse _____	
Address _____		City _____		State _____ Zip (+4) _____	
Phone _____		email _____			

Are you a (check one):

- Fireballer Relative of Fireballer Other: _____

If you are a relative:

Name of Veteran _____		Relationship to you _____	
Birth Date of Veteran _____		Squadron # _____ Rank _____	
Dates Assigned _____		Duties _____	
Plane Name _____		Plane # _____ Pilot's Name _____	
Plane Name _____		Plane # _____ Pilot's Name _____	

POW? / Evadee? _____ Captured Date: _____ Escape/Release Date: _____

Retired Military? _____ Rank: _____

Comments: _____

► 2016 Washington D.C.
457th Bomb Group Assoc.
State-side Reunion

AGENDA

(June 15-19):

► **Wednesday** June 15

Early Registration 1700 - 1900 hrs

► **Thursday** June 16

Registration..... 1300 - 1700 hrs

Explore Washington D.C.

Visit Memorial Room

Welcome Reception..... 1800-2000 hrs

► **Friday**..... June 17

Breakfast (on your own)..... 0600-0900 hrs

Arlington Cemetery..... 1000 hrs

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier..... 1100 hrs

Tour of the Pentagon (lunch provided).. 1200 hrs

► **Saturday**..... June 18

Breakfast (on your own)..... 0600-0830 hrs

WWII Memorial..... 0900 hrs

WWII Memorial (memorial service)..... 1000 hrs

Return to Hotel (afternoon on your own) 1200 hrs

Farewell Reception..... 1730 hrs

Closing Banquet * 1830 hrs

► **Sunday**..... June 19

Breakfast (on your own)..... 0600-0900 hrs

Check-out 1100 hrs

Registration located in Courtyard (Lobby Level)

Memorabilia Room is located in the Club Meeting Room, Lobby Level of the Courtyard.

*Attire: Semi-Formal, your favorite 40's outfit

457th Bomb Group Association
State-side Reunion
June 15-19, 2016
Washington D.C.



For Room Reservations call:

Courtyard Marriott Arlington

1.800.321.2211

Order Online:

<http://tinyurl.com/zyl5pu9>

Room Rate During Reunion:

\$129 per night (single/double)

Room Rate Before /After Reunion:

\$169 per night (single/double)

Reservations must be made by May 18 to secure the reunion rate of \$129.00

Fly into Reagan National Airport for convenient access to the hotel. The Marriott offers free shuttle service to hotel.

Events Reservations:

\$175.00 per person

Registration fee includes reception, boxed lunch, & banquet.

Banquet entrée choice:

Thyme & Dijon Chicken Breast

Grilled New York Strip

Maple Soy Salmon

Complete the following registration form. Include each member in your party.

Checks payable to:

457th BGA Reunion

Mail to:

Nancy Archuleta

457th Bomb Group Association

611 Holmes Ave. NE, Huntsville, AL 35801

► 2016 Washington D.C.

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State-side Reunion**

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Fait Accompli

457th Bomb Group Reunion: Washington D.C. June 15 -19, 2016

► **Registration Form**

Name _____ Squadron _____

Spouse/Guest#1 _____ Guest #2 _____

Guest #3 _____ Guest #4 _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip (+4) _____

Phone _____ email _____

May we include your phone number in the registration book? Yes No

► **Registration Fee**

Reunion Registration Fee: \$175 per person (includes reception, boxed lunch, & banquet)

_____ persons x \$175 each = \$ _____

Tour Congress! Meet with your Senator (if available)! Enter names in your party here

_____ and arrangements will be made. Transportation will be on your own.

► **Banquet Entrées:**

Please indicate your choice of banquet entrée & number of each:

_____ Thyme & Dijon Chicken Breast

_____ Grilled New York Strip

_____ Maple Soy Salmon

Indicate special dietary needs: _____

► **Mail Form & Fee To:**

Checks payable to:

457th BGA Reunion

Mail to:

Nancy Archuleta

457th Bomb Group Association

611 Holmes Ave. NE, Huntsville, AL 35801

► Highlights

Cambridge, England

The Eagle & A Famous Ceiling

by Joe McNichol



► Joe McNichol in front of Monument, Glatton, England

While I think this article reports on an already well documented topic about Cambridge; it was an unexpected added bonus for me on my first ever visit to Glatton and Cambridge. In the way of background; I am a relatively late comer to membership in the 457th BG Association. Unfortunately I was not aware of the details of my father's brief experience as a member of the 748th Squadron until after the turn of the millennium, more than 55 years after my father bailed out of a disabled ship on the group's fourth mission on 25 February 1944. I am so very glad to have learned about the 457th's Association, and all I have learned about the group and the distinguished Fireballers.

Since learning as much as I could about and my father's experience, and the 457th BG, over the last dozen years or so; I had very much looked forward to making a visit to Glatton to see the Memorial Monument there. In addition to my interest in visiting Glatton, I also wanted to visit the Cambridge American Cemetery where my father's brother is memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing as a result of his service with the 392nd BG.

This past May 2015 my long awaited opportunity to visit Glatton and Cambridge had arrived and I could not have been more pleased to see Glatton and imagine what it must have been like to be an American Airman preparing for and participating in the Allied Heavy Bombardment campaign.

As terrific as my Glatton and Cambridge American Cemetery visits were; it was an unexpected surprise discovery that I may have enjoyed even more. After completing those visits to Glatton and Cambridge American Cemetery; my wife and I had time to spare, so we signed up for

a walking tour of Cambridge and its famous University. While the focus of the walking tour was the University; the first stop our tour guide made was on Benet St to point out "The Eagle", the most famous pub in Cambridge. The Eagle is a famous public house for a number of reasons, including the 1953 announcement made there by Cambridge scientists on the discovery of how DNA carries genetic information. But for visitors who had parents or grandparents that served in the Allied Air Forces, it is also famous for being a favorite haunt of off duty Allied Airmen who were serving at the many nearby air bases. The infamy of The Eagle as a place of respite for Allied Airmen being dramatically visible on The Eagle's ceiling as a result of tradition established early in the air campaign by which visiting airmen would precariously stand on a table and use a candle or a lighter to burn into the ceiling their squadron or group number, as well as other relevant text and images that were near and dear to the young airmen at the time.

After the completion of the tour, naturally we returned to The Eagle to have a look for ourselves.



► The ceiling at the Eagle, the most famous pub in Cambridge

At first glance it is difficult to make sense of the graffiti style ceiling etchings. Fortunately, some years ago, a determined former regular customer, James Chainey, undertook the effort to ensure that this highly valuable tribute to the men of the Allied air campaign was preserved, but also to catalog and index what was difficult to decipher for visitors interested in this unique "gallery" that presents such a terrific insight into the airmen's WWII experience. So, naturally I wanted to know if the 457th BG and the 392nd (my uncle's BG) were among the randomly made etchings. Posted right there on one of The Eagle's walls, next to the table we were sitting at, was a framed document

prepared by the aforementioned James Chainey numerically listing all the groups and squadron numbers etched on the ceiling. To my delight, both the 457th & the 392nd were listed. Then came the fun little challenge of finding the etching of the 457th on the ceiling.

While waiting for the food we ordered to be served, it only took a few focused minutes to find the prominently etched 457th BG just above the front center side of the bar.

I have no way of knowing whether my father ever had a chance to visit The Eagle, as his ship went down on only his second mission, from which he survived and successfully evaded from occupied France.

The story of The Eagle is well documented in previously published sources; one of the best sources is the "A Famous Ceiling" article written by a Mr. Malcolm "Ozzie" Osborn and posted on the 398th BG Association website: <http://398th.org/Friends/FONA/index.html>

Mr. Osborn's article provides a copy of the diagram of the ceiling done by James Chainey that

helps an interested visitor find the etching they are looking for.

Another source on The Eagle is the War History Online website: <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/the-warbirds-the-crews-and-their-enduring-graffiti-the-pub-ceiling-memorial.html>

While I enjoy sharing this experience with other members of the 457th BG Association; what I would really love to learn is: Does anyone know who the Fireballer was who did the 457th's etching on the ceiling at The Eagle?

► Special Report Somewhere In England

The Mission Retold

by Ralph I. Evans, Jr.

Your December 2015 issue article under "Highlights: Somewhere in England" interested me, because I flew with the 457th Bomb Squad Group. The article prompted me to look into my logbook, and sure enough, I flew that mission, too. It really rang a bell: I dug into a sort of life history I wrote several years ago, and found this paragraph:

"I remember one mission, just before Christmas. The Battle of the Bulge was raging: we wanted to give close support but had been weathered

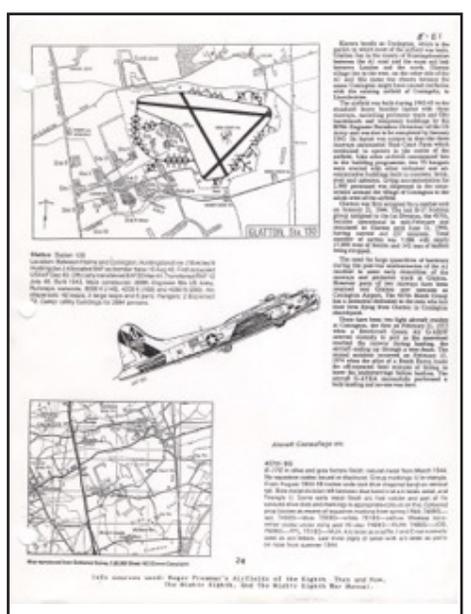
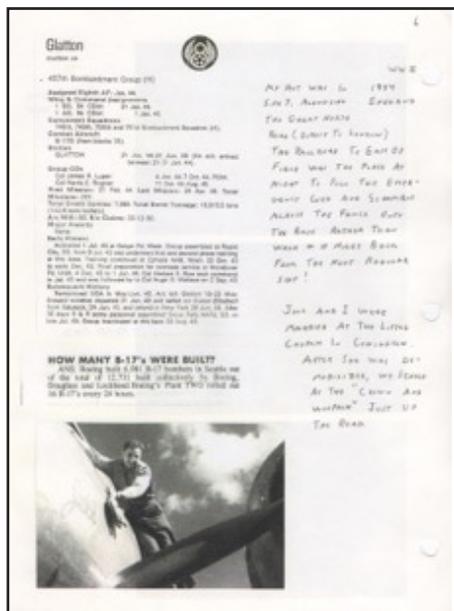
in. We managed to take off, but when we got back to England our field was socked in. We had no way to make critical instrument landings, so somewhere above the clouds we were signaled to break formation and go try to find ourselves somewhere to land! So here were all these damn planes, diving through the clouds, hoping to break out with enough ceiling to see the ground, and then flying around hoping to find a field with enough visibility to line up on a runway - any runway - and land! We were just above the treetops, but found an RAF field. They heard us wandering around and shot up some flares to help us line up on the runway. We blew both main tires but stopped short of the runway. Some fun!!"

You brought back memories. Thank you!

About Ralph Evans: *My history? Cadet class 43K, B-17 flight and then crew training. Flew 35 missions with 750th Squadron, 457 Bomb Group. Civilian for a few years, then B-29 pilot, Korean War - 24 missions. Back to the States, my outfit transitioned to B-47's. Now I have 6 jets on my wings, and an atom bomb in my belly and my own, very specific target in the Soviet union. Retired military in 1956 - went to Lockheed in Georgia as Production Test Pilot. B-47's - then mostly c-130's. Local testing and instructing plus sales demonstrations and custom training all over the world. Retired in 1973. Two wives and four wonderful children along the way. It's been a hell of a life!*

On behalf of the 457th Bomb Group Association, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Ralph Evans, for his account of the mission of 12/19/1944. Without personal reports such as this, the world would not gain a true understanding of the missions that took place during WWII. I encourage others to tell their story!

-Respectfully, Chris Sechrist



► Taken, with permission, from the logbook of Ralph I. Evans; 8th Air Corp, 457th Bomb Group, 750th Squadron, WWII

► Special Report

Images of the 2015 Reunion



► Photo provided by Justina Sechrist



► Photos two thru five provided by Sam Evenhart

► In Memory

Kenneth Blakebrough

December 31, 2015

At the age of 92, Kenneth Blakebrough passed away peacefully on December 31st, 2015 in Mission Viejo, CA. He was born April 3rd, 1923 in Detroit, MI, to Herbert and Emma Blakebrough. He served proudly in the U.S.A.A.F during W.W. II as a co-pilot in the 457th Bombardment Group, flying B-17s out of the airbase near Glatten, England. Kenneth authored two books based on his war years, "The Fireball Outfit" and "A Co-Pilot Remembers."

After the war he attended the University of Southern California, and remained a faithful alumnus the rest of his life. After graduating from USC, he married Grace Waytas, with whom he had a son, David. Many years later he married Arden Black, his wife of 40 years.

He is survived by his wife, Arden, his son David, daughter-in-law Theresa, and three stepchildren. Kenneth will be interred at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego.

submitted by Bob Chatham

Floyd A. Crispin, Jr.

January 2, 2016

It is with great sadness that I report to you the death of my father, Floyd A. Crispin, Jr., who was a 1st Lieutenant with the 751st Bombardment Squadron of the 457 Bombardment Group. He passed away in Ocala, Florida on January 2, 2016 at 91 years of age. He leaves behind his wife, Nancy K. Crispin, two daughters, Karen Crispin and myself, Susan Englert, son-in-law, George Englert, all of Ocala, FL and grandson, George Englert III and his wife, Alicia Englert, of Wesley Chapel, FL. Feel free to contact me should you require any further information. You may use this information as you see fit.

respectfully submitted, Susan Englert

William D. Bird

April 17, 2015

William D. Bird, Jr. passed away Jan. 29, 2013 in his Laguna Beach home with his beloved wife Nancy at his side. He was 89. Bill was born in Bird's Point, Mo., a small town on the Mississippi River. He served 10 years as an Air Force officer, flying as a navigator with the Mighty Eighth Air Force out of England during World War II, and later trained as a weather and radar officer.

After serving his country, Bird returned to the University of Missouri where he earned a degree in electrical engineering. The Bird family came to California where he worked a decade for Hughes Aircraft. He then joined North Electric Company, later acquired by ITT, as a regional sales manager in their power supply division for 20 years. Bird retired to his home in Emerald Bay in 1984.

Bill is survived by his wife of 64 years, Nancy Bird; daughter Laurie (Mike) Hefty of Laguna Niguel and their sons, Bob, of Laguna Niguel, John, of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and Tim, of Boise, Ida.; son William D. (Cindy) Bird III, of Chesterfield, Mo.; and daughter Sarah Ann Bird of Turku, Finland. He leaves five great grandchildren.

submitted by his daughter, Laurie Bird Hefty

► Notice of Meeting

This is the Official Notice that The 457th Bomb Group Association will meet at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Crystal City, Virginia, June 16-19, 2016. The Business Meeting of the Association will convene in session during the meeting for the purpose of receiving reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Certain Charter of Incorporation and bylaw changes will be presented for consideration, a summary of which is attached. Regular and life members are voting delegates and are entitled to vote on each matter properly coming before the membership requiring a vote.

1. Current Life members are not affected. New applications for life membership are suspended except for the surviving spouse of any Regular or Life Member who served with the 457th during the period of time it was stationed in the United Kingdom. Upon application such spouse shall be a Life Member and exempt from paying dues.

2. Membership year is changed to one year with dues of \$25.00 per year.

3. Officers will be elected by the board instead of the membership.

4. The board of directors will be composed of nine (9) members, eight (8) to be elected by the members for a two (2) year term of office. Additionally, the immediate past president is a full voting member of the board. The immediate past president's term will expire two (2) years after the term of office as president expires. Terms of four and six year directors who are now serving will not be effected.

5. The Charter of Incorporation is proposed to be amended by removing the number and terms of office of members of the board of directors from the charter and placing same in the bylaws.

► Photos From England

Madingley, England

Thank you, Tim and Angie Newel, for representing the 457th Bomb Group Associate at Madingley, Cambridge American Cemetery during the 2015 Memorial Day celebration!



► Travel Fund

Travel Fund

Our sincerest appreciation to all of you who have contributed to the Travel Fund in the past. You have helped the Association cover a portion of our English Historians' expenses when they join us in the U.S. The Travel Fund is an open account with our Treasurer and your contributions are welcome at any time. Contributions should be marked "Travel Fund" and mailed to:

Lori Barnett, Treasurer
457th Bomb Group Association
3110 Graystone Lane, Apt. 2105
Albany, GA 31721

► Officers & Appointments

Will Fluman, Jr. President	MR-SHORT-CUT@hotmail.com 132 Ore Bank Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019	P: 570.971.5757
Joe De Luccia Vice-President	jaadeeluu@aol.com 214 Cambridge Ave., Saddle Brook, NJ 07663	P: 201.797.9245
Trisha Mach Robertson Secretary	kai967@yahoo.com 1862 Halekoa Dr., Honolulu, HI 96821	P: 808.799.8854
Lori Barnett Treasurer	Lpbarnett223@aol.com 3110 Graystone Lane, Apt. 2105, Albany, GA 31721	P: 662.418.8563
Kathy Collins Director - 2 year	Kcollins18@cox.net Seville Dr, Pensacola, FL 32503	P: 850.206.6670
William W. Siler Director - 4 year	ykc135@att.net 2661 Nutmeg Ave., Morro Bay, CA 93442	P: 805.771.0167 C: 256.656.9155
Nancy Archuleta Director - 6 year	narchuleta@chm611.com 611 Holmes Avenue NE Huntsville, AL 35801	P: 256.425.1674
William W. Siler Immed. Past Pres.	ykc135@att.net 2661 Nutmeg Ave., Morro Bay, CA 93442	P: 719.566.1714
James Bass Legal Advisor	jlbass@bassandbass.com P.O. Box 500, Carthage, TN 37030-0500	P: 615.735.1122 F: 615.735.3149
Curt Musheno Webmaster	webmaster@457thbombgroupassoc.org 2001 Heim Hill Road, Montoursville, PA 17754	P: 570.974.1940
Chris Sechrist Newsletter Editor	fireballnews@outlook.com 36 Shank Road, Carlisle, PA 17015	P: 717.776.5313

► English Historians

John Walker	29 Chancery Lane, Eye, Peterborough, England PE6 7FY	P: 44 1733 222994
Tim Newell	tim.newell@gmail.com Virginia Cottage Church Lane, Conington, Peterborough, England PE7 3QA	P: 44 1487 830450
Chris Cronin	chris_cronin@live.co.uk	

► Past Presidents

1973-75: William Willborn	1986-87: Clayton Bejot	2001-03: Will Fluman (d)
1976: Howard Larsen (d)	1988-89: Donald Sellon	2003-05: Don Nielsen
1977-79: Bill Siler	1990-91: John Welch	2005-07: James Bass
1980-81: Edward Reppa (d)	1992-93: Roland Byers(d)	2007-09: George Grau
1982-83: Daniel Graham (d)	1993-97: Billy Hightower (d)	2009-11: Joe Toth
1984: William Good (d)	1997-99: Lee Zimmerman	2011-13: John Pearson
1985: David Summerville (d)	1999-01: Craig Harris (d)	2013-15: William W. Siler



Visit the website today at www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

▶ 2016 -2017 Calendar of Events

▶ June 15 - 19, 2016

State-Side Reunion in Washington DC

▶ August 10, 2016

Fall newsletter article deadline

▶ September, 2016

Fall newsletter

▶ February, 2017

Spring newsletter article deadline

▶ April, 2017

Spring newsletter

▶ Editors Report

Newsletter by mail or online?

I hope you have had an opportunity to see the full color **FIREBALL** newsletter online. www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

We will continue to print and mail a black & white version of the newsletter but we are always looking for ways to conserve funds. If you would like to be notified by email when a new **FIREBALL** issue is available, **in lieu of a printed version** please contact Trisha Mach Robertson at kai967@yahoo.com. She will send you a link that will take you directly to the latest newsletter.

Chris Sechrist, *editor*

Our Departed Veterans

During each of our State-Side reunions a ceremony is held to honor those veterans who have passed away since the previous State-Side Reunion. Please let us know if your dear

Veteran has passed away, by contacting:

Trisha Mach Robertson

1862 Halekoa Dr., Honolulu, HI 96821

or by emailing Trisha at kai967@yahoo.com

She will add the name to a list of those who will be honored at the 2016 Washington DC State-Side Reunion.

Additionally, if you desire, we will recognize your loved one in the **FIREBALL** newsletter.

Feel free to submit obituaries, memoirs, & family stories... past or present to Chris Sechrist. I will place your article in a future newsletter.

Contact

▶ **mail:** Chris Sechrist
36 Shank Road,
Carlisle, PA 17015

▶ **email:** Chris Sechrist
fireballnews@outlook.com

Visit the website today at
www.457thbombgroupassoc.org