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State-Side Reunion Postponed

IMPORTANT: 2021 Stateside Reunion currently planned for Gettysburg has not been scheduled due to uncertainties of COVID-19. Adele Gilmore and Will Fluman, Reunion Chairs will let us know as soon as more information is available. The links for registration for other Bomb Group Association meetings and events may be found online located at <https://www.8thafhs.org/new/reunions.php>

▶ Highlight

2020 Glatton Reunion

"In the midst of Covid19, and despite the Mini Reunion and Madingly Service being cancelled our thoughts were with you all especially on Memorial Day. We worked our way through the program and wished you were here. The weather was glorious, at least we got that right.

We laid a wreath at the Memorial at 11am and as you can see there was a turnout of jeeps etc for the occasion."

- Angela Newell, 457 BG Association Historian

▶ Future Notifications

Information and updates will be emailed. If you haven't yet received email notifications, please email your Name; Veteran or Relationship to the Veteran; and Squadron or unit affiliation; and expected # of attendees to: 457thReunion@gmail.com

We will add you to the email roster and send updates as they occur.

Find Updates Here:

Website: <http://www.457thbombgroupassoc.com>

Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/y7855qt7>

8th AF: <http://www.8thafhs.org>





Reunion Memories Warner Robbins - June 2013

► We Like You

Like us on facebook!



The facebook page has been given a face-lift, thanks to the hard work of Erwin deMooij!

This is a hot spot for posts and pictures, and a forum for our 457th family and friends to gather, share stories, and ask questions. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1408261252566363> or use: <https://tinyurl.com/y7855qt7>

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

We Need Help!

Send all member contact information to Sheila Vester Gooch at adksheilav@yahoo.com



Annual dues for 2021 are due before December 31, 2020. Everyone shares an annual membership date.

We are adding a PayPal account to make it easier for everyone to pay, buy & DONATE.

Submit stories, pictures and obituaries to Gerardo Morgan at panforte09@gmail.com

457th Bomb Group Association: Membership Dues & Subscription Form

► Dues

Annual Dues: \$25 per person (per Year)

Note About Lifetime Memberships:

Per the Association and Board meeting held in October of 2019, this is the only membership category available. Life memberships are honored and all WWII Veterans are granted honorary lifetime membership.

► Mail form, check payable to: 457th Bomb Group Association

Attention: Adele Gilmore, Treasurer
3070 37th Avenue S, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712

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

Adele Gilmore, Treasurer
3070 37th Avenue S, St. Petersburg
Florida, 33712

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: _____

Send my Fireball newsletter by: mail email

► Special Recognition

Thomas Tredici

By Kim Bowden, Air Force Research Laboratory

Before he was a renowned ophthalmologist, even before he attended medical school, Col. (Dr.) Thomas J. Tredici was a bomber pilot in World War II, flying 20 combat missions over Germany between November 1944 and June 1945.

Influenced by his interactions with flight surgeons, Tredici went to college and then immediately entered medical school. He specialized in ophthalmology, recalling that frostbite and ocular trauma were the most common injuries sustained when an aircraft came under fire.

After several years in the field, in 1964, Tredici's reputation and experience led him to an instructor position at the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine -- now part of the Air Force Research Laboratory's 711th Human Performance Wing here, but then located at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel and sent to Vietnam in 1965.

When Tredici returned, he was made chief of USAFSAM's ophthalmology division and promoted to colonel. He published a paper about his medical experience in Vietnam and continued to publish and lecture extensively during his tenure.

After 30 years of military service, Tredici retired in 1982 at the age of 59. The very next day, however, he was recalled to active duty.

In 1987, when he was forced to retire at age 65, Tredici became the last World War II pilot to retire from Air Force active duty. He returned to USAFSAM's Aerospace Ophthalmology Branch, where he worked at a senior civilian scientist for almost 25 years, retiring for good in 2011.



Editor's Note: The 457th Bomb Group Association would like to welcome Col. (Dr.) Tredici to our association and look forward to hearing about his distinguished Air Force career.

► Features

“Act III of the war — After the War — is now simply part of our daily reality, in America and globally” Writes Tom Hanks.

Beloved actor Tom Hanks recently wrote an op ed to The New York Times regarding his opinion on how the echoes of WWII still exist in our society today. Follow the link below to read more...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/02/magazine/world-war-ii-end-tom-hanks.html>



Pictured Below: Tredici's Bomb Group



"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION
Temperature today: 45 degrees
Monday, December 8, 1941
Yankees today: 4-3, 1941

VOL. XXI No. 36,834
NEW YORK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1941.
THREE CENTS PER COPY

**JAPAN WARS ON U. S. AND BRITAIN;
MAKES SUDDEN ATTACK ON HAWAII;
HEAVY FIGHTING AT SEA REPORTED**

CONGRESS DECIDED
Roosevelt Will Address It Today and Find It Ready to Vote War

CONFERENCE IS HELD
Legislative Leaders and Cabinet in Sober White House Talk

TOKYO ACTS FIRST
Declaration Follows Air and Sea Attacks on U. S. and Britain

TOGO CALLS ENVOYS
After Fighting Is On, Crew Gets Japan's Reply to Hull Note of Nov. 26

GUAM BOMBED; ARMY SHIP IS SUNK
U. S. Fliers Head North From Manila—Battleship Oklahoma Set Afire by Torpedo Planes at Honolulu

104 SOLDIERS KILLED AT FIELD IN HAWAII
President Fears "Very Heavy Losses" on Oahu—Churchill Notifies Japan That a State of War Exists

PACIFIC OCEAN: THEATRE OF WAR INVOLVING UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES

Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities an American ship (1) the Philippines were bombed, as was Hong Kong in the northwest. At Shanghai (2) a British gunboat was sunk and an American battleship (3) was damaged. In the Malay area (4) the British bombed Japanese ships, Tokyo forces attempted landings on British territory and Singapore surrendered on air raid. Destroyer (5) United States bombers turned northward, while some parts of the fleet (6) were sent to the Philippines.

► In Memory

Gordon W Dykes

MARCH 11, 1924 – AUGUST 22, 2019



Wayne often talked about building and racing sailboats with his brother Maurice and how they were involved in providing labor and soliciting donations to build what became the Gulfport Yacht Club. After graduating from St. Petersburg High School, Mr. Dykes enlisted in the Army Air Corp. The St. Petersburg Times ran an article "Gulfport Yacht Club Goes to War" as most of the young men who started the club enlisted for military service during World War II. For 20 combat missions 1st Lt Dykes served as Navigator on a B-17 in the 457th Bomb Group (H), 8th Air Force.

Gordon Wayne Dykes passed away at his home on August 22, 2019, at the age of 95. He was born on March 11, 1924, in St. Petersburg, Florida, to Leopold Maurice Dykes and Martha Elizabeth Dykes (nee Hartsfield).

He started academics early when he followed his brother to the first day of school. It was midway through the year before the teachers learned he was 5 years old, but he was allowed to stay in the class because he was doing so well.

After the war, Wayne continued his education at the University of Florida, where he was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity. With a civil engineering degree in hand, he began his professional career at NACA at Langley Air Force

Base in Virginia. While at Langley he met a lovely lady named Margaret Claire Tisdale. While he teased her about having to keep the coffee pot hot for the test pilots, Margaret was a "computer girl" doing flight meteorology calculations for the nation's earliest supersonic pilots. They were married November 18, 1950. A few years later, they moved to Tullahoma, TN, where Wayne worked on development of wind tunnels for full-scale supersonic testing. In 1960 the family moved to Huntsville, AL, and Wayne began his career with NASA which extended through the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs. As Director of Facilities and Design for the Marshall Space Flight Center, he was also involved with development of the John Stennis Space Center in MS and the Michoud Assembly Facility in LA. For the Michoud project New Orleans presented Wayne with the key to the city. Many of the facilities developed during his tenure at NASA, including the neutral buoyancy tank and rocket test stands, are now on the National Registry of Historic Places. As the Apollo project was ending, Wayne became Chief of Site Activation Directorate for Safeguard Systems Command, the national defense anti-ballistic missile system. For this work he received the Department of the Army's Decoration for Meritorious Civilian Award.

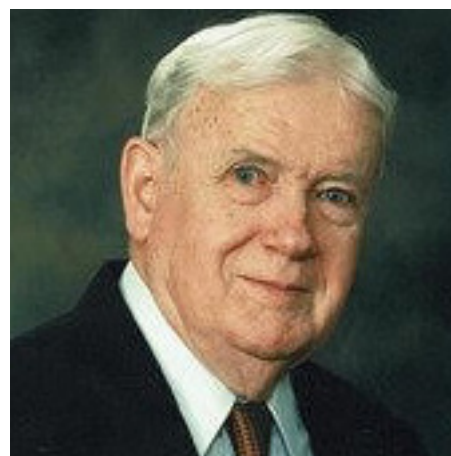
In 1974 Wayne accepted a position as Chief of the Engineering Division of the Army Corp of Engineers Mediterranean Division and moved to Italy to work out of the main office located at Camp Darby near Pisa. To better reflect the work being done, the Division was renamed the Middle East Division and Wayne's office moved to Mt. Weather outside Berryville, VA. Several of the facilities he helped develop in Saudi Arabia were used by U.S. forces during Operation Desert Storm. In 1979 Wayne ended his career with the federal government and moved to Austin, TX, to become a Senior Partner at Page, Southerland, Page, an architectural and engineering firm. He retired in 1989 and traveled extensively around the world with Margaret by his side.

As a father, friend, businessman, and member of the community, Wayne lived his life true to the cardinal principles of Phi Kappa Tau: Fellowship, Knowledge, Truth. He generously gave of his time and money

to a wide variety of charities and causes. He always took on the tough projects. As Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 310 in Huntsville, AL, he led a very active troop that accomplish such things as hiking the Appalachian Trail through the Great Smoky Mountains. When Huntsville, AL, wanted to develop a civic center to honor Dr. Wernher von Braun and the project wasn't proceeding smoothly, Dr. Von Braun called Wayne and asked him to get involved. Serving as Chairman of the Board of Control for the Von Braun Civic Center, he was involved in the project through the design, construction, and activation stages, flying back from Italy to attend the opening events for the Civic Center. Among the many charities he was involved with in Austin were Manos de Cristo and Meals on Wheels [at age 94 he stopped serving as a delivery driver].

James L. Bass

MARCH 11, 1924 – AUGUST 22, 2019



During World War II he served as a radio operator and aerial gunner on a heavy bomber assigned to the U.S. Army Air Corps stationed with the 8th Air Force in Conington, England with the 457th Bomb Group. In preparation for his assignment he went through basic training by what he called was the toughest drill sergeant in the Army. He then took an extensive course in radio operation and maintenance and procedure at an army facility in Sioux Falls, SD. It was here

he learned the International Morse Code. Aerial Gunnery school followed in Yuma, AZ. In combat he participated in the Battle of the Bulge, the Rhineland Offensive, and the Central Europe Campaign. For his service he was awarded the European, African, and Middle East Campaign Medal with battle stars, the Air Medal with clusters, the Victory Medal, and the French Foreign Legion Medal of Honor, the highest honor bestowed by the French Government for his role in liberating French POW's. Concerning his service in the Armed Forces he said "I was proud to have served. I was aware that I was part of a larger effort that would have a lasting impact on the world. If we had not stepped up when we did and Hitler had been successful, we would be living in a very different world at this time."

He is the author of a historical account of the 457th Bomb Group and a history of the rural telephone program. He was also a licensed funeral director in the State of Tennessee and at the time of his death was the oldest licensed funeral director in the state.

Smith County, TN, native James Lillard Bass, Jr. passed away on Thursday, May 21, 2020, two weeks before his 99th birthday. He was 98 years of age. A son of the late J.L. and Linnie Gibbs Bass, he received his early education in the Smith County School system graduating from Gordonsville High School in 1939. He enrolled in Cumberland University to continue his education which was interrupted by America's entry into World War II. While at Cumberland University he helped pay his tuition by waiting (hopping) tables in the university's dining room.

After the conclusion of the war he continued his education with an undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1947. He entered law school at Vanderbilt University and graduated in 1949, beginning a long career in law. He remained active until May 8, 2020.

Mr. Bass was instrumental in the formation and development of the Smith Utility

District. Funds for the formation and development of public works projects were scarce in the early 1960's; however he looked for and found a favorable source of financing to start the project. He has looked with pride with the development of the District and provided legal services to the district for more than 50 years. He was also active in helping secure funds for rural telephone systems to bring modern telephone service to rural areas and served as legal counsel for more than 50 years to a trade association, NTCA, whose membership consisted of rural telephone systems located all across the nation. He served on the Smith County Industrial Board, and prepared the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of the Industrial Board, the Smith County Chamber of Commerce, and the Smith County Heritage Museum. He was a longtime member of the Carthage United Methodist Church where he taught adult Sunday School Class for a number of years and was active at all levels of the Methodist Church.



Happy Veterans Day to all Service Members (Past and Present) & their Families!

► 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 contact us by e-mail.

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:

Sheila Vester, Association Secretary at # 716.864.9150

She will add the name to a list of those who will be honored during the next State-Side Reunion.

Notes from the Editor:

We would appreciate it if all members (including Board members) would check their electronic and mailing addresses for accuracy.

If anyone has information about deceased members or obituaries, please forward those to us for the next Stateside Memorial Service.

Visit the website today at
www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

► Officers & Appointments

Nancy Archuleta President	narchuleta@chm611.com 611 Holmes Ave NE, Huntsville, AL 35801	M. 256.656.9155
Robert Parker Vice-President	rparker15@hotmail.com 509 Pioneer Trail, Harker Heights, Tx 76548	M.254.824.0237
Adele Gilmore Treasurer	pickwickantique@gmail.com	M. 727.433.2550
Sheila Vester Secretary	adksheilav@yahoo.com 5001 Transit Road Apt 313, Depew, NY 14043	P: 716.864.9150
Eric D. Zemper Director	P.O. Box 130537, Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0537	
Kathy Collins Director - 2 year	Kcollins18@cox.net Seville Dr, Pensacola, FL 32503	P: 850.206.6670
Gregg Robertson Director - 4 year	greggwrobertson@aol.com 437 Kailua Rd. Apt. 6103, Kailua, HI 96734	P: 808.721.5389
Kurt Gunderson Director - 4 year	kgunderson@briighthouse.com 5701 Burke Way, Bakersfield, CA 93309	P: 661.835.0787
Trisha Mach Robertson Director	kai967@yahoo.com 1302A Kamahale Street, Kailua, HI 96734	M.898.799.8854
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Vacant Legal Advisor		
Curt Musheno Website Technician	webmaster@457thbombgroupassoc.org 2001 Heim Hill Road, Montoursville, PA 17754	P: 570. 974.1940
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Erwin de Mooij Webmaster/Facebook Admin.	webmaster457thbombgroup@outlook.com Mondriaaniaan 31, Sassenheim, 2172 DG Netherlands	P: 0031612972293

► European Historians

Tim Newell Angela Newell	tim.newell@gmail.com Cemetery Chapel, Stoke Doyle Road, Oundle, Northants, England PE8 5TR	P: 44 1487 830450
Erwin de Mooij	b17research@gotmail.com Mondriaaniaan 31, Sassenheim, 2172 DG Netherlands	P: 0031612972293

► Past Presidents

1973-75: William Willborn	2001-03: Will Fluman (d)	2005-07: James Bass
1976: Howard Larsen (d)	1988-89: Donald Sellon (d)	2007-09: George Grau (d)
1977-79: Bill Siler (d)	1990-91: John Welch	2009-11: Joe Toth
1980-81: Edward Reppa (d)	1992-93: Roland Byers(d)	2011-13: John Pearson
1982-83: Daniel Graham (d)	1993-97: Billy Hightower (d)	2013-15: William W. Siler (d)
1984: William Good (d)	1997-99: Lee Zimmerman	2015-19: Will Fluman, Jr.
1985: David Summerville (d)	1999-01: Craig Harris (d)	
1986-87: Clayton Bejot	2003-05: Don Nielsen	

► General Updates

We need to have everyone's current email address to use mail chimp as a way to communicate on a more spontaneous basis and so we are able to send out invoices for annual dues.

► Introducing Our Store **The 457th Hangar**

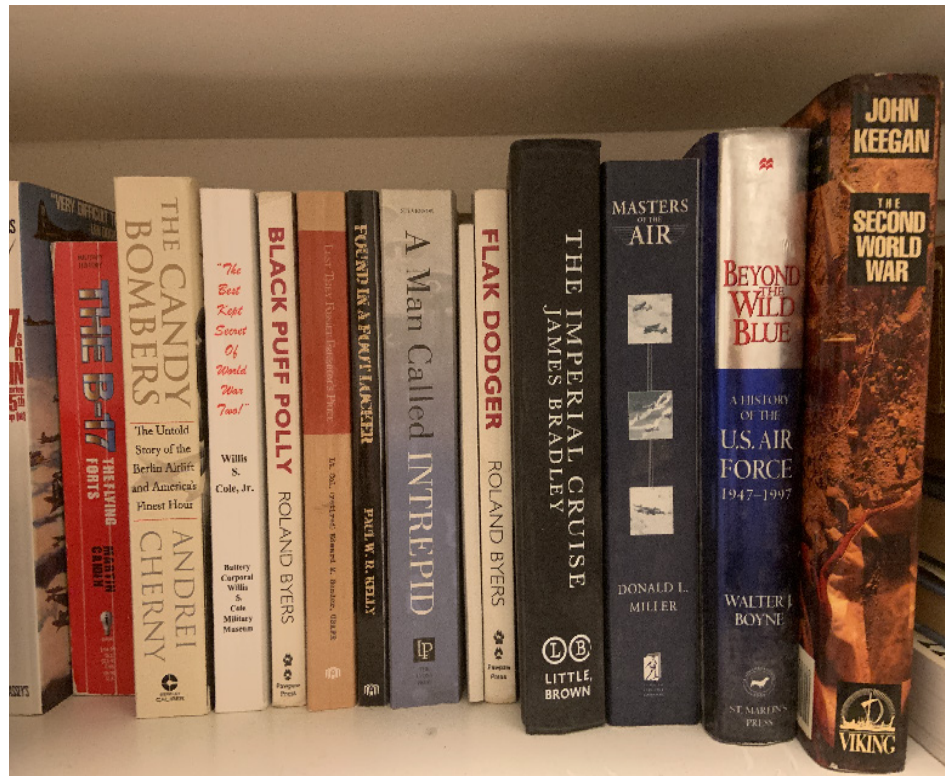
We're proud to announce our new online store! Items for sale include pens, books, hats, coins, cups, and shirts. Please e-mail Gina Morgan at 57thHangar@gmail.com for a complete order form.

As a special offer, in honor of our veterans, **FREE** shipping on all orders placed before December 4th!

► President's Message

Esteemed members of the 457th BG association, There are many things that we could talk about today such as a pandemic, social justice or injustice, opening schools versus distance learning, vaccines, riots...Pick a topic...someone has an opinion and they're more than not willing to share it.

But I choose today to talk with you about why I believe our fathers went to war and most especially what I believe our association represents. We are the troves of memories shared and pieced together and living libraries of great values and great sacrifices that earned our parents the title... The Greatest Generation. Therefore, my fellow association members we must hold high the standard of hope that our fathers handed off to us.



Special Thanks to Bill Hensen for getting the store energized, for all the donations, and Fait Accompli Spirit!

Speak loudly and valiantly of responsibility, duty to God, Family our country and our world. Step up and fill the boots of the Greatest Generation by being responsible; by being forthcoming in our actions; by having respect for others and above all maintaining hope and sharing hope; let us stay united by honoring a past that set the framework for a democracy and true values.

Share this as often as possible with your own family and friends. In itself, this gives them hope. Bring their heroes to life.

Stay safe my friends. We need you!

-Nancy Archuleta



Warner Robbins - June 2013

