

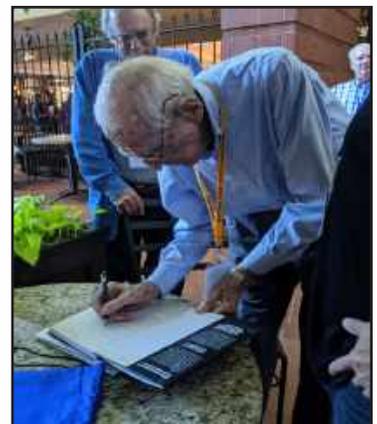


### ▶ Special Report State-Side Reunion 2019

New Orleans, Louisiana



The 457th Bomb Group Association held its bi-annual reunion in New Orleans, LA, on October 3, 2019. We were honored to have two WWII veterans among those attending. Mr. Robert Jackson and Mr. George A. Parker were our honorees along with many First, Second, Third, and even a few Fourth-Generation attendees.



The Theme of this year's reunion was:  
"Victory In Remembrance"

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### FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS:

Information and updates will be emailed which you are able to unsubscribe if you wish.

### Find Updates Here:

Website: <http://www.457thbombgroupassoc.org>  
Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/y7855qt7>  
8th AF: <http://www.8thafhs.org>

### ► We Like You

**Like us on facebook!**



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!**

## State Side Reunion 2019



The backdrop of activities centered on the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. Attendees toured the galleries that described the unbelievable journeys our serviceman endured on the Road to Berlin and on the Road to Tokyo.



The culmination of the day's museum tour was the show provided by the Victory Belles. They sang a medley of 40's songs that had everyone reminiscing about days long since passed, but never forgotten.



During the memorial service we honored 24 WWII Veterans who passed away.



Erwin DeMooj presented a historical accounting of Dutch B-17 operations in Holland during WW II.



A business meeting was conducted where a resolution was passed that allows the Association to collect dues on a yearly basis instead of every two years. Also, a new Board of Directors was voted on and sworn in to commence their 2-year term of office.

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## ► Special Report

### Return to Glatton

The mini-reunion of the 457th Bomb Group Association will meet in Peterborough at the Talbot Hotel for Memorial Day Weekend activities.  
Register before Friday, April 10th.

#### AGENDA

(May 21-25):

##### ► Thursday.....May 21

- Arrive at Oundle
- Check in/register
- Sign up for trip to Peterborough on Friday May 22

##### ► Friday.....May 22

- Visit the Cathedral
- Visit the Bull
- Dinner at the Bull (on your own)
- Return to Oundle

##### ► Saturday.....May 23

- Visit B-17 Air field
- Visit Glatton Airfield
- Picnic at Glatton Airfield
- Memorial Service after dark (Airman Memorial Conington Church)
- Return to Oundle

##### ► Sunday.....May 24

- RBL Service at Cambridge
- Lunch at The Admiral Pub

##### ► Monday.....May 25

- Wreath laying at Madingley
- Air show at Duxford

## 457th Bomb Group Mini Reunion: Glatton, UK

### ► Registration from:

_____		_____	
Name		Squadron	
_____		_____	
Spouse/Guest #1		Guest #2	
_____		_____	
Guest #3		Guest #4	
_____		_____	
Address	City	State	Zip (+4)
_____		_____	
Phone	Email		

## May 21-25, 2020

► Register before April 10th

► Registration Fee:

# \_\_\_\_\_ persons x £200 each =\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### The Talbot Inn

New Street, Oundle PE8 4EA England

Call Now for Reservations:.....(44) 1832 273621

Email:.....D.Metselaar@innmail.co.uk

Reservation Code:.....BK029994

Room Rate:

•Double room for 5 nights for 2 guest with breakfast each morning-£485.00

•Single room for 5 nights -£385.00

•Double room 5 nights -£435.00

### ► Mailing information:

Send registration form and check by April 10th ; or email registration form to **narchuleta@chm611.com** and send check to:

Checks payable to: **457th BGA Reunion**

Mail to:

**457th Bomb Group Association**

611 Holmes Ave. NE, Huntsville, AL 35801

## ► Special Report

### 97-year-old country lawyer still goes to work every day

**Brad Schmitt**

Nashville Tennessean

Around 6 a.m., James L. Bass Jr. microwaves a frozen sausage and biscuit, a simple but significant task. Bass didn't learn how to make his own breakfast until 2014, when his wife of 62 years, Erma, died.

And Bass needs breakfast because, at 97, he still goes to work most weekdays — in a suit and tie — at the law office he opened in Carthage, Tennessee, 70 years ago.

"I grew up working, and I have no desire to retire," he said, with a gentle twang and a little rasp in his voice.

"When night comes, I know I put a day's work in, and I can sleep well."



*James L. Bass and his wife, Erma, were married for 62 years before she died in 2014*

His two children live nearby, and they support their father working, believing that the job gives him purpose and focus after his wife died. His children believe the job keeps Bass mentally focused, staving off depression or dementia. "I want him to work," said his daughter, Jane Bass Turner, 56, a nurse practitioner. "I want him to die exactly where he has been happy, and that's at work behind his desk."

Bass' son, David, 60, who joined his father's law office 35 years ago, does most of the legal heavy lifting. But the elder Bass still handles property title

searches, deeds and estates.

Bass also spends much of the week greeting old clients and community leaders who stop by the Main Street office across from the county courthouse.

And, leaning on a thick wooden walking stick his mother-in-law used to use, Bass goes to events now and then.

#### **The lawyer doesn't use a laptop**

Last month, dozens of staffers and board members greeted him warmly ("Hello, Mr. Bass!") when he showed up at a lunchtime fish fry at the Smith County Utility District, where Bass served as counsel for 52 years.

In fact, Bass helped create the water system that allowed him and other county residents to stop using well water that often smelled like sulfur.

"Mr. Bass is always welcome here. He's been here from the beginning," said Kenneth Nixon, president of the utility's board for 20 years. "His knowledge of the system is unsurpassed." Bass gets through his days with help from his children and the office staff.

His daughter picks him up in the morning after Bass puts on a suit and makes and packs a lunch of a turkey or ham sandwich with a bag of chips.

After he gets to the office, Bass has a cup of coffee and skims the morning newspaper before turning to a handful of "active files" on his desk. An office assistant prints out any emails that have been sent to him because Bass doesn't use a laptop.

"In 1996, when computers came into being, I miscalculated the importance that thing would have," he said. "I did not take up the computer, which I should have."

Bass usually eats lunch at his desk, and afterward, he shuts his office door, sits in a reclining chair in his office, puts on a blanket, leans back and takes a nap.

He'll do some more work and then his son takes him home around 4 p.m.

#### **Staying in touch with his WWII unit**

One of his kids usually makes sure he has dinner, and Bass will watch the 6 p.m. news and go to sleep shortly after that. Wednesday is casual day — he'll wear a sweater and slacks, no suit. "Sometimes I wear a pair of blue jeans!" he said loudly, smiling.

Saturday is a day to spend with family, the grandchildren when possible. Sunday is church, always in a suit and tie, always at the Methodist church.

"It's pretty much a routine, and I like it." Bass also stays in touch with surviving members of the 457th Bomb Group, his Army unit from World War II. He has researched and written several books on that unit, selling a few hundred to fellow WWII veterans.



*A 1944 picture shows Army Air Force Service tech Sgt. James L. Bass Jr. Before he was shipped off to England to fight in World War II.*

Bass has had few health problems, though he does some dialysis at home to deal with kidney problems. He started using the walking stick only three years ago, and he stopped driving only two years ago, after his doctor suggested it.

What does Bass want to mark his 100th birthday?

"Peace and quiet."

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## ► In Memory

### **Kenneth Rohde**

March 31, 2019

Kenneth E. Rohde, age 98, died March 31st at Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers, Florida where he had been a resident since 1993. He was preceded in death by his wife Marjorie E. (Wood)

Rohde. He was born June 10, 1920 in Muskegon Heights, Michigan. He was the son of the late Elmer C. and Ellen C. (Lofquist) Rohde. Kenneth graduated from Muskegon Heights High School attended Western Michigan College (University) before being drafted into the Army before Pearl Harbor.

He served with the 37th Army Infantry Division in WWII and was stationed on Fiji as a radio operator. He then was transferred to the Army Air Corps to received training as a co-pilot of B-17s, flying 35 missions in Europe from Glatton England with the 457th Bomb Group. He later wrote of his experiences in "The Last of the Four R's". In July of 2018, he was honored by the French government with the French Legion of Honor for his missions over France in WWII.

Following WWII, he worked for Sealed Power Corporation in Muskegon, Michigan as an engineer and then became a plant manager. In 1972 he oversaw the construction of a new plant in Franklin, KY and became the plant manager there until his retirement in 1981.

### **Joseph Toth**

July 02, 2019

Joseph A Toth, 94, passed away July 2, 2019. Joe was currently residing at Spanish Peaks Veterans Community Living Center in Walsenburg, CO. He is preceded in death by his parents and brothers, wife Jeanne, and son Jerry.

Joe was born in Newburgh, NY August 5, 1924 to Christina and Alex Toth. At the age of 19, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and became a B-17 Tailgunner during WWII. He was assigned to the 8th Air Force, 457th Bombardment Group, 751st Squadron at Glatton Air Base in England and flew 32 missions over German occupied territory in Germany and France. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "distinguishing himself in support of operations by heroism or extraordinary achievement in an aerial battle." Other awards include the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct Medal, and the French Legion of Honour Medal.

After discharge from service Joe worked many years in his auto repair business, then as maintenance service manager at Pepsi Cola and retired from Hertz Corporation as Zone Maintenance Manager in Las Vegas, NV and Denver, CO. Joe also worked at the former Pueblo Army Depot.

► [Additional obituaries will be published in the spring newsletter.](#)

### **Marshal Windham**

August 24, 2019

Marshall T. Windham, 96, of Columbus, Texas passed away on August 24, 2019 in Columbus. He was born on June 23, 1923 in Shelby County Texas to Vester and Lue Windham and grew up in Center, Texas. He was the fourth of five brothers.

Marshall was proud of his service to our country during World War II. In 1943 he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corp at the age of 19. As a member of the 8th Air Force, 457th Bomb Group, he flew 16 successful missions in a B-17 named the "Big Time Operator" with a crew of 9 close comrades. Together they flew over Germany, on various bombing missions. On the 17th mission the flying fortress was shot down and Marshall along with his crew was captured by German soldiers and held in German Prison Camps as a Prisoner of War. Enduring seven months of near starvation and torturous conditions he was liberated on May 2, 1945. This experience would forever shape the man he was.

Marshall became a jeweler and watch repairman after attending school in Houston. He opened his own jewelry store in Weimar, TX along with his wife, Mary. They later moved to Columbus, TX and together ran Windham Jewelry for 44 years.



A business meeting was conducted where Mr. Bass was linked in via Skype. He was awarded the “Fait Accompli” Award for his diligent and faithful service throughout his many years. His son, David received the award on his behalf.



The evening banquet dinner was highlighted by Mr. William Henson speaking of his memories of his father who flew and was shot down while serving in the 457th Bomb Group. Bill’s speech centered on the shooting down of his father and a family who gave him a jacket to wear during his evasion from the enemy. He proudly displayed the jacket to close his comments. Mr. Edward Parker spoke of his memories of the 457th Bomb Group and what the Association has meant to him over the years. He was proud of being a part of this group and vowed to continue to attend reunions as long as he was able.

## ► Officers, Directors & Appointments

<b>Nancy Archuleta</b> President	narchuleta@chm611.com 611 Holmes Ave. NE, Huntsville, AL 35801	P: 256.656.9155
<b>Robert Parker</b> Vice-President	rparker15@hotmail.com 509 Pioneer Trail Harker Heights, TX 76548	P: 254.824.0237
<b>Adele Fluman</b> Treasurer	pickwickantiques@gmail.com 132 Ore Bank Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019	P: 727.433.2550
<b>Sheila Vester</b> Secretary	adksheilav@yahoo.com 5001 Transit Road Apt 313 Depew, NY 14043	P: 716.864.9150
<b>Gregg Robertson</b> Director	greggwrobertson@aol.com 437 Kailua Rd. Apt. 6103, Kailua, HI 96734	P: 808.721.5389
<b>Trisha Mach Robertson</b> Director	kai967@yahoo.com 1302A Kamahale Street, Kailua, HI 96734	P: 808.799.8854
<b>Kathy Collins</b> Director	Kcollins18@cox.net Seville Dr, Pensacola, FL 32503	P: 850.206.6670
<b>Kurt Gunderson</b> Director	kgunderson@brighthouse.com 5701 Burke Way, Bakersfield, CA 93309	P: 661.835.0787
<b>Will Fluman, Jr</b> Immed. Past Pres.	MR-SHORT-CUT@hotmail.com 132 Ore Bank Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019	P: 570.971.5757
<b>James Bass</b> Legal Advisor	jlbas@bassandbass.com P.O. Box 500, Carthage, TN 37030-0500	P: 615. 735. 1122 F: 615. 735. 3149
<b>Curt Musheno</b> Website Technician	webmaster@457thbombgroupassoc.org 2001 Heim Hill Road, Montoursville, PA 17754	P: 570. 974.1940
<b>Gerardo Morgan</b> Newsletter Editor	panforte09@gmail.com 5707 Bent Tree Ct, Colleyville, Tx 76034	P: 817.374.0599
<b>Erwin de Mooij</b> Webmaster/Facebook Admin.	webmaster457thbombgroup@outlook.com Mondriaaniaan 31, Sassenheim, 2172 DG Netherlands	P: 0031612972293

## ► European Historians

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

## ► Past Presidents

<b>1973-75:</b> William Willborn	<b>2001-03:</b> Will Fluman (d)	<b>2005-07:</b> James Bass
<b>1976:</b> Howard Larsen (d)	<b>1988-89:</b> Donald Sellon (d)	<b>2007-09:</b> George Grau (d)
<b>1977-79:</b> Bill Siler (d)	<b>1990-91:</b> John Welch	<b>2009-11:</b> Joe Toth
<b>1980-81:</b> Edward Reppa (d)	<b>1992-93:</b> Roland Byers(d)	<b>2011-13:</b> John Pearson
<b>1982-83:</b> Daniel Graham (d)	<b>1993-97:</b> Billy Hightower (d)	<b>2013-15:</b> William W. Siler (d)
<b>1984:</b> William Good (d)	<b>1997-99:</b> Lee Zimmerman	<b>2015-18:</b> Will Fluman, Jr.
<b>1985:</b> David Summerville (d)	<b>1999-01:</b> Craig Harris (d)	
<b>1986-87:</b> Clayton Bejot	<b>2003-05:</b> Don Nielsen	

## ► From the President's Desk

Dear 457th BG friends,

I received shocking news over the holidays learning that I am not a Baby Boomer (post 1945).

My correct status... War Baby! That term comes with awesome responsibilities. We must proudly and honorably carry the banner of freedom for which our fathers and loved ones fought and sacrificed.

We of the 457th BG association mutually share this great responsibility. I ask you to join me in remembering our heritage, obligations, and freedoms. Come to Glatton and visit the fields from where our fathers flew to Germany and other destinations. Together on Memorial Day, we will go to Madingley to lay a wreath in remembrance of the 457th BG.

Greatest Generation, War Babies, Boomers, Millennials, and all Patriots... it's our duty to keep the memory alive. See you across the pond in May!

Peace be with you!

Nancy Enriquez Archuleta  
President

We would like to thank the Brother Martin High School JROTC from the New Orleans area for presenting the colors at the banquet.



## 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
66 - 70	\$75
71 +	\$60

► Mail form, check payable to:

**457th Bomb Group Association**

611 Holmes Ave. NE,  
Huntsville, AL 35801

**check applicable:**

New membership

Renewal     Address Change

### ► Donations & Travel fund

**Your Contributions Count!**

**Please consider a donation to support our Travel Fund and ongoing Projects Fund.**

Contributions should be mailed to

Adele Fluman

132 Ore Bank Road,  
Dillsburg, PA 17019

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: \_\_\_\_\_

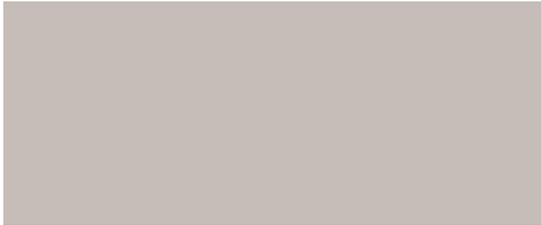
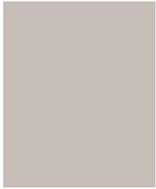
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send my Fireball newsletter by:**     email     mail (black and white only)

**457th Bomb Group Association**

611 Holmes Ave. NE,  
Huntsville, AL 35801

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Visit the website today at [www.457thbombgroupassoc.org](http://www.457thbombgroupassoc.org)

**Newsletter by mail or online?**

I hope you have had an opportunity to see the full color FIREBALL newsletter online. [www.457thbombgroupassoc.org](http://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 [narchuleta@chm611.com](mailto:narchuleta@chm611.com). We will send you a link that will take you directly to the latest newsletter. Remember to let us know if you change your email address.

- Gerardo Morgan, *editor*

► **May, 2020**

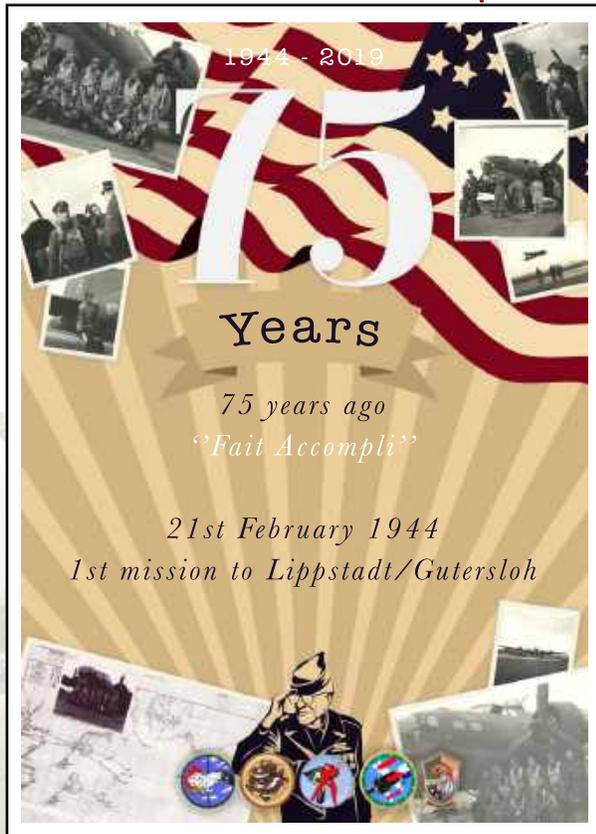
Spring Newsletter

**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:

**Nancy Archuleta** - [narchuleta@chm611.com](mailto:narchuleta@chm611.com)

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



*The graphic work has been made by Olaf Heilker from the Netherlands. His great grandfather was General Major Jacobus Jans. Before the war started he retired but during the war he was an important resistance man who received the Medal of Freedom in 1954 from the Americans.*