



THE FIREBALL

Est. July 1971 * Bentonville, AR

November 2022 Vol 55 Issue 94

Behind the Scenes

Of the 457th Bomb Group Association

In order to explore aspects of our Association's possible future, in late October our new president Eric D. Zemper went to Washington, DC, to attend the 8th Air Force Historical Society meetings. While there, he was able to talk with a couple of the officers and the executive director of the Society to explore the possibility of the 457th BGA holding our annual (stateside) reunions/meetings in conjunction with the Society, which has been an item of discussion at our recent board meetings (we held such a joint meeting at our 2018 reunion in Dayton, OH). Not surprisingly, all of the Society people were very supportive of the idea and encouraged us to do so. The executive director said they would do whatever necessary to help us out. We just have to let them know ahead of time each year that we plan to hold meetings with them, so they can help arrange a hospitality suite that serves as the site for the Group's business meeting, and arrange for a table for our Group at the Rendezvous Dinner for the Groups. As we are aware, a number of BGs and FGs are already doing this, and this year they had a record number of 30 BGs and FGs involved. The only other requirement the executive director noted with regard to our meeting under their umbrella was that everyone who registers to attend their meetings must be a Society member. This would represent a minimal additional cost for our members. As of next year, the Society's annual dues will be \$60 per year. That would be in addition to our \$25 per year.

being directly related to availability of more event/tour and dinner options at the Society meetings, which the member is free to choose or not. And meeting in conjunction with the Society eliminates the hassle for one or more of our members having to arrange hotels, events/tours and dinners for each meeting, and the costs in time and money involved with that process. If we do decide to move in this direction, we are not obligated to meet with the Society every year. And we can still arrange meetings at/near Glatton whenever we want, either in place of the annual stateside meeting (with the Society) or in addition to a stateside meeting. Nancy Archuleta is currently exploring a way to set up those meetings in the future, so we don't continue to impose on Tim and Angie Newell (although they have not indicated it's an imposition, it still does have to be quite an effort on their part). There will be more about these possibilities in future issues of this newsletter.



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All in all, after reviewing the costs for attending our reunions over the past few years compared to the costs for the 8th AFHS meetings, it appears the relative costs can reasonably be considered pretty much a wash between the two approaches, with any additional costs



Stateside Reunion - Gettysburg, PA

September 2022

*(Photos and captions submitted by
Nancy Archuleta & Gina Morgan)*

Reflection

One might ask, "What does Gettysburg have to do with World War II?" Well, we found out at this reunion that it could have had a tremendous potential impact. Let's imagine, for a moment, that the South had won the Civil War. Remember, that Gettysburg was the turning point when the North became the obvious winner. We could have been made up of many small countries not unlike Europe or South and Central America. We would not have been a major ally in World War II that brought down the Nazi regime. The potential outcome is too unfathomable to imagine.

Submitted by Nancy Archuleta



The Civil War and Gettysburg

WWII Museum in Gettysburg



Along with the opportunity to tour the Gettysburg Battlefield and Museum, we visited the WW II Museum that is a stone's throw away from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Ranch. It was the best time to visit because the weather was perfect and we had an opportunity to view live exhibits.

By Nancy Archuleta

457th BG Association
members touring a
Gettysburg battlefield.



Nancy Archuleta and Gina Morgan
touring Gettysburg, PA



Gina M. and Chris S. atop the PA monument
at Gettysburg.



Kurt Gunderson takes a moment to reflect at the
foot of the Minnesota Memorial at Gettysburg. He
is from Minnesota.

Stateside Reunion - Gettysburg, PA September 2022

*(Photos and captions submitted by
Nancy Archuleta & Gina Morgan)*



Peace Memoria with Eternal Flame

An original fence on the battlefield.



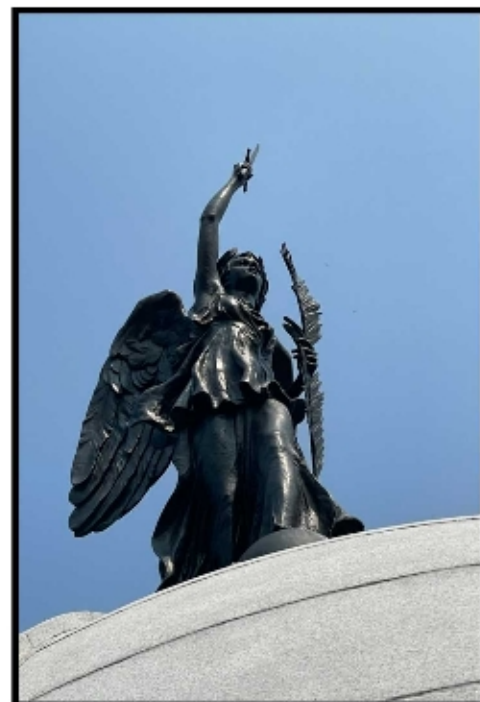
Union Flag with battle scars.

Pennsylvania Memorial
with an angel on top.



Gettysburg Court house
from the 1800's

Angel on top of the Pennsylvania Memorial



Note from the (new) President

At our Association's recent meeting in Gettysburg (arranged in a superb manner by former President Will Fluman, Jr.), I was selected by the members present as the new President of our organization. As I said while accepting this honor, I'm a relative 'newbie' to the Association, having joined in 2016 when I accompanied my father to his first 457th reunion just a month before he died. But I will do my best to carry on the excellent work of my immediate predecessors, Nancy Archuleta and Will Fluman. My marching orders from Nancy focused on preserving the history of the 457th BG and the memory of those who served with the 457th. This resonates with me, since I have been working for the past few years to digitize and preserve the thousands of photographic images and movie film my father brought back from Glatton after the war.

My father was LT Duane L. Zemper, the CO of the 457th BG's photo lab and photo intelligence unit. These items he brought back from England are an amazing trove of historical material that he fortunately was able to rescue from being destroyed as the unit was being returned to the States, and this material will be a small part of our preservation efforts as we move into the future.

Our current bylaws state that the objective of the 457th Bomb Group Association "shall be the preservation of the historical significance of the 457th Bomb Group (H), United States Army Air Corps, and the continuity of a spirit of friendship and camaraderie which first came into being as a result of military service in that organization during World War II." With only a very few original members of the unit still with us, and those few in their late 90s, that spirit of friendship and camaraderie among those men by whom these bylaws were written will soon pass from the scene. It now falls on us, the second, third and fourth generations following these great men, to be the ones who can and will carry on this task. As I write this, word has arrived that we have just lost one of the last few surviving members of the 457th, Vaughn Dale Heidenreich, a bombardier in the 748th Bomber Squadron. And we are reminded that even those of us in the second generation are starting to disappear, as word has just arrived of the passing of long-time board member Trisha Mach Robertson whose father, Bill Mach, was one of the top photographers in my father's photo unit. They both were an important part of the 457th BGA, and they will be missed.

So please maintain your membership in the 457th BG Association (or please join if you're not already a member), and start encouraging the younger generations behind us to become involved. My son has been contributing to the 457th website for several years, and I'll be encouraging his two sisters to join as third generation members. And my oldest granddaughter (fourth generation), a freshman in high school, has been very interested in her great-grandfather's WWII experiences, so I'll be making sure she joins. We need more of these



later generation members to carry on the spirit and memory of the 457th!
Please do your part to encourage membership.

In the next newsletter I'll talk more about where our organization will be going in the future.

Eric D. Zemper, PhD
President, 457th BGA
zemper@msu.edu



1945 - 15 month old Rick meets his father upon return from WWII

Extremely Proud of His Dad - (And, Deservedly So)

I hope you will indulge me while I take a moment to boast a bit about my father, Lt. Duane L. Zemper. Several of you met him when he attended his first 457th BGA reunion in 2016, which turned out to be just one month before he died.

The day after his death, several people in my hometown, where my father still lived, got together to plan something to memorialize his legacy in the community, and formed a committee to pursue this project, which I joined

as a representative of the family. The result a couple of years later, on what would have been his 99th birthday, was the unveiling of the Zemp Legacy Statue on the lawn of the town library. The committee wanted to make it an 'interactive' piece of artwork, and the sculptors we hired were fully on board with that concept. They incorporated nearly 60 "Easter eggs" for people to look for on the statue that symbolized his interests and accomplishments. Soon after, I put together a booklet identifying all these items and the stories behind them, which the library provides to children and people who wish to track them down. You'll note that the 457th is mentioned right up front, and he's holding the Graflex camera he acquired while at Glatton and used throughout the rest of his career as a professional photographer. The family is honored that so many in the community supported the project, and we're very proud of the result.

By Eric D. Zemper



Photo courtesy of Eric D. Zemper, PhD

The Duane L. Zemper Statue

The location and identification of the many symbols found on the Zemp Legacy Statue, and the stories behind those symbols.
Compiled by Eric D. Zemper, PhD

Excerpt from Zemp Legacy (by Eric D. Zemper)

Most of the remaining items to be found on the statue are in the form of books and archive boxes. Here is an example of a Book:

1/) Book "Saved by the Camera Strap - D.Z." refers to an incident when Zemp was serving in the Army Air Force in England during WWII. On a training flight over the English Channel to test a new bombardier who had just been assigned to the 457th BG, the plane was making several passes over a target anchored in the Channel. On each pass the bombardier would drop one practice bomb. Zemp was sitting cross-legged on a V-shaped catwalk that ran through the middle

of the bomb bay of the plane, taking pictures of where each bomb landed, so the bombardier's accuracy could be evaluated. After the final pass the plane turned back to base, and hit an air pocket. The plane dropped suddenly and, not being tied down, Zemp slammed against the ceiling of the bomb bay and lost consciousness. When he regained consciousness he found he was completely outside the airplane with his legs banging against the fuselage in the slipstream, and he was hanging onto his camera, which was jammed in a corner of the bomb bay doors. The K-20 camera, rather than the strap mentioned in this book title, actually had an aluminum body and handle. It took Zemp about five minutes to climb back into the bomb bay. He then crawled into the radio room, where the radio operator told him there was a message for him: He had just had a son (Eric) born back in Howell. This was in late May 1944. Zemp's later children were forever grateful he hung on to that camera.

Excerpt from Zemp Legacy by Eric D. Zemper

Flight Gear, Heated Suits

In the beginning, the B-17 offered some problems for the crews flying it. At the Service Ceiling, breathing was impossible without oxygen masks and temperatures could reach a staggering -40° C. (Severe) frostbite was something seen often in the beginning of the war. Keeping warm was essential for the crews. Let's focus on how the men kept warm on missions.

The B-17's were equipped with thermostats and electrical connections so you could plug-in your electrical heated suit. Starting from April 1941 the E-1 and F-1 (Blue Bunny) heated suits were standardized. The E-1 used 12-volts and the F-1 used 24-volts. When 12-volt was replaced by 24-volt on all aircraft only the F-1 heated suit would remain. The wiring of the F-1 was like the old wiring of a Christmas tree. If a wire would break it would shut down the whole suit and that meant that the crew had to return back to base to avoid frostbite. The suit came with fitted electrically heated gloves and shoe inserts which could be connected to the F-1 suit.



F-1 (Blue Bunny)

The F-2 heated suit, standardized in August 1943, corrected the problems with the F-1 suit. The F-2 suit consisted of two/four parts. There were the outer jacket and pants which needed to be connected together. There were also the inner jacket and pants that also needed to be connected together. Problems with this model was that it limited movement in the shoulder area and knee area but the biggest problem was that it wasn't warm enough. Additions to this suit were the electrically heated gloves, shoe inserts, black felt shoes, an oxygen mask shield (to avoid the oxygen mask freezing up) and a connection to a heated lens for the B-8 goggles.



F-2 Flying Suit Diagram

The F-3 heated suit, standardized in February 1944, corrected the problems of the F-2 suit. The F-3 suit consisted of two parts. There was a bolero jacket (two part parallel electric circuit) and trousers (three part parallel electric circuit) which needed to be connected by an electric lead. Just like the F-2 suit, this model also had problems with the press studs causing burns if one of the two press studs was not placed correctly. This problem was dealt with on the F-3A, standardized in October 1944.

The heated suits were, of course, not the only items they would be wearing on a mission. In the morning the men would dress like always (underwear and uniform). Then, they would head out to get their electrically heated suit which they would wear over their uniform and under their flying jacket and pants. Then they would collect their flying helmets, goggles, oxygen mask, parachute, life vest and rayon gloves inserts. These gloves were worn under the (electrically heated) gloves. These gloves prevented men from getting stuck on frozen metal. Like gunners who would take off their gloves and with their bare hands would try to unjam their machine guns. Their skin would stick on the metal causing serious injuries. Wearing these gloves the men didn't have to worry about that anymore.



Rheostat with extension cord



F-3 heated suit instruction leaflet

Article submitted by Erwin de Mooij, along with Photos from the 303rd Bomb Group website



Mr. Will Fluman

New U. S. Historian

Will and his entire family have been very active members of the 457th BG Association and actively recalls the participation of our Airmen and many of their missions. He is always willing to share his time and talents to preserve this unique history. He has agreed to serve as the U.S. Historian to our association along with our British Historians Tim and Angela Newell; and our European Historian Erwin de Mooij. Thank you, Will, for your service to the Association.



In Memoriam



**Patricia "Trisha"
Henrie Mach
Robertson**

July 3, 1944 –
September 29, 2022

Board of Directors
457th BGA

Trisha, who lived a life of service to her family, friends, students, community, country and her Catholic faith, passed away in her Kailua home on September 29, 2022 surrounded by her husband, Gregg, and her daughters. She is survived by her sisters Suzan (Dennis) King and Kathleen (Robert) Ozman, and brother William J. Mach; daughters Nicole (Stephen) Busekrus, Rebecca (Walter) Milas and Heather Henry; her grandchildren Jordan, Ashtyn, Erin, Austin, Adrianna, Ashley; and by her great grandchildren Elliot, Reinhold and Harlow. Trisha was born in Hamtramck, Michigan on July 3, 1944 to William and Henryetta Mach.

Trisha graduated from Regina High School in Harper Woods, Michigan and Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan. She pursued a long and gratifying career as a school teacher in Michigan and Hawaii, primarily teaching Spanish. Trisha also took over and served as the director of the Artisan School of Design in Honolulu, which she subsequently merged into Chaminade University.

Trisha was a loving, kind, and caring person whose outgoing, selfless and compassionate nature attracted a host of lifelong friends throughout the United States and around the world. Trisha had many interests that included genealogy, history, and travel. Being the daughter of a WWII veteran, Trisha enjoyed learning about the war. Her father, William Mach, served in the 8th Air Force, 457th Bombardment Group (B-17s) based in Glatton, England, as a photographer (1944-1945). In addition to traveling to the 457th reunions in the US and England, Trisha served as an officer and director of its Association.

Growing up with grandparents from Poland,

Trisha threw herself into researching her family history in Europe. She combined her interests in genealogy and travel to find and meet long-lost cousins throughout the US and Poland, meeting relatives from both the Lewandowski and Mach branches of the family tree. In 2014, Trisha (US) and her cousin Anna (Poland) organized a large reunion of American and Polish relatives in Wloclawek, Poland. It was epic.

Additionally, Trisha enjoyed her visits to Scotland, Mexico, Costa Rica, Spain, Columbia, Morocco, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Hong Kong. Particularly satisfying to her were seeing the Northern Lights in Alaska and transiting the Panama Canal.

Trisha was definitely adventurous, even learning and doing very well at indoor rock climbing.

Trisha established and maintained a support group for women with metastatic breast cancer. What started as two women meeting for coffee in Kailua, grew into a group of women supporting each other not only in Hawaii, but thanks to Zoom, across the mainland US and Australia.

She was a dedicated volunteer who helped her community, her students, the Pacific Aviation Museum, the People of Praise and her Catholic Church.

*Services were held on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church
920 Keolu Drive, Kailua.*

*Visitation 9:30 am, Services 10:30 am,
with short reception to follow.*

*Burial at Hawaiian Memorial Park, 2pm,
45-425 Kamehameha Highway, Kaneohe*

*Arrangements Provided By: Nuuanu Memorial Park
& Mortuary LLC*

Vaughn Dale Heidenreich, 98, passed away September 30, 2022 in his Woodstock home surrounded by his loving wife and family. Vaughn was predeceased by his parents Lester and Amy and his four brothers, Wilmer, Delmar, Jerry and Vern. He leaves behind his loving wife Mary (Grossel-Adams)

Heidenreich, his four stepchildren; Mary Beth (Dan) Meloni, Joseph (Terese) Adams, Judith (Karl) Shuh, and Karen (Raymond) Shook, as well as three children with first wife Phyllis (Higgins) daughters, Candace (Marc) Kresmery, Dawn Hines, and son Curt (Lisa) Heidenreich. Numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren also mourn his passing.



**Vaughn Dale
Heidenreich**

September 21, 1924

September 30, 2022

Vaughn was born September 21, 1924 in Stockton, Illinois and graduated from Crystal Lake High School in 1942.

In 1943 he joined the United States Army Air Force, and was in the 8th Air Force, 457th Bomb Group where he became a lead bombardier in a B-17 Flying Fortress stationed in England. For his service, First Lieutenant Heidenreich received the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, a symbol of valor.

Upon his return from the war, Vaughn worked at Jewel Tea Company in Barrington where he retired after 44 years as Director of Fleet Operations.

Once retired, Vaughn taught the AARP Defensive Driving class for 22 years.

Vaughn loved playing golf, bowling, ballroom dancing and watching his beloved Cubbies and Bears.

Vaughn and Mary wintered in Tucson, Arizona where Vaughn was the Master of Ceremonies for the Tucson Estates Talent Shows.

He had a wonderful voice, and for many years, he and Mary sang together in the choir at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Crystal Lake.

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In Memoriam

(continued from previous page)

He lived a full, rich, blessed life and was dearly loved by his family and friends. Even in his final days, he repeatedly told everyone around him, "I love you."

Fait accompli (mission accomplished), Vaughn

Funeral Mass was held on

Saturday, October 8, 2022,

*at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church,
451 W. Terra Cotta Rd., Crystal Lake, IL.*

Luncheon immediately followed at the church.

*In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the
Alzheimer's Association, the 457th Bomb Group
Association, or the Saint Thomas Choir.*

Interment will be private.



**Lt. John C.
Lindholm**

November 3, 1923 -
January 10, 2020

John C. Lindholm of Manhattan, Kansas died January 10, 2020. John was born in Wichita, Kansas on November 3, 1923, to Nora Anne (Borror) and Ernest Cyril Lindholm. He attended Cheney High School, graduating in 1941, before attending Kansas State University, where he graduated in 1949 with dual degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Business Administration.

On June 8, 1947, he married the love of his life, Mildred Ruth Socolofsky at the First United Methodist Church in Manhattan, Kansas. Together they had four children: Martha (Michael) Milleson, Susan (John) Harrington, both of Leavenworth, Kansas, John (Debra) Lindholm, Houston, Texas and Barbara (Randall) Angell, Bothell, Washington.

John belonged to the First United Methodist Church where he was a member of the United Methodist Men, Peacemakers Sunday School Class, Old Geezers, and other committees, and

served as Chairman of the Finance Committee and Chairman of the Board of Trustees.



In 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps becoming a B-17 pilot. He and his crew flew 17 bombing missions with the 457th Bomb Group out of Glatton, England from February to April 1945, then several observational flights, and two flights to repatriate French POWs from Austria. He received medals during his service including the European Theater of Operation, Bronze Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was released from active duty in October 1945 but remained in the Air Force active reserves until May of 1972.

After graduation, he worked for General Electric and Midwest Research Institute before starting graduate studies. He taught while completing his MSME at Kansas University, and then while earning his Ph.D. at Purdue University. He joined the KSU faculty as a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and later Head of the Engineering Technology Department. He was active in the Society of Experimental Mechanics, American Society Engineering Education, American Society of Mechanical Engineering, serving 2 terms as Regional Vice President and was faculty advisor to the KSU chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. He, along with his family, spent 2 years with a team of engineering professors to help establish an Engineering program at the University of Assiut, Assiut, Egypt. He had Fulbright Fellowships to The University of the South Pacific, Fiji Islands and University of Assiut, Egypt.

Giving back to the community was important to John. In addition to his church activities, John was a member of the American Legion and volunteered with the Kansas Boy State program for 20 years

sharing his WWII experiences and memorabilia. He volunteered for many other programs over the years among them the AARP Income Tax Prep Program, the Home Care & Hospice Vet to Vet Program and the Kansas 2A State Basketball Tournament. He was recently honored by RSVP as one of their oldest volunteers.

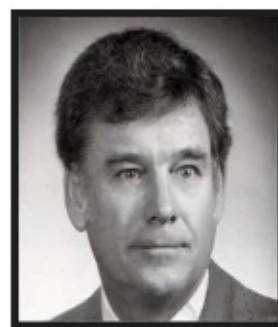
He was preceded in death by his wife. In addition to the four children, he is survived by brothers, Leonard Lindholm of Mulvane, Kansas; Charley (June) Lindholm of Ada, Oklahoma; Norman Lindholm of Willard, Ohio; sisters, Elenore Claribel "Lindy" Hurd of Alamogordo, New Mexico; Beverly Anne (Virgil) Severns of Fairbanks, Alaska; many nephews and nieces; 4 grandchildren, Adam (Thao) Harrington of Glastonbury, Connecticut; John Michael (Erin) Ludwig of Wichita, Kansas; Valerye Milleson of Fairfax, Virginia; Caryn (David) Smith of Shawnee, Kansas and 7 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at the United Methodist Church. A reception followed.

Interment in the Kansas Veterans Cemetery, Manhattan, KS on Friday, January 17, 2020.

**Robert Charles
"RC" Templin**

September 1, 1924 -
March 8, 2018



Robert Charles "RC" Templin, 93, of Grand Island, died peacefully on Thursday, March 8th, 2018, at CHI-Health St. Francis, surrounded by family.

The Celebration of Life Service was on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at All Faiths Funeral Home in Grand Island. It began at 1:00 PM with a time of visiting, and Prayer Service at 2:00 PM, with a reception following. Daniel Naranja officiated.

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In Memoriam

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Robert was born on September 1, 1924 to Charles and Opal (Wood) Templin in Stanton, NE. He graduated from Stanton High School and went on to serve in WWII Army Air Corp. After he returned home he was part owner of Baker's Sporting Goods, Fremont, NE, before he became a salesman for M0-Kan Chemical Company. After his retirement, he went to work as a merchandiser for Kraft.

On December 31, 1969, Robert was united in marriage to Peggy Larson. They made Grand Island their home.

Robert was a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the American Legion, Heartland Shooting Park, and the oldest member, literally and figuratively, at the Health-Plex Fitness Center. He enjoyed boating, waterskiing, mowing his yard and easement, golfing, fishing, hunting- having taken many hunting trips, anything out-of-doors, traveling and dancing with the love of his life - Peggy.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Peggy; children, Robert (Paula) Templin, Jr. of Monument, CO, and Kristie (Jack) Boysen of Fremont, NE, and his grandchildren Rob Templin of Colorado Springs, CO, Jesse (Devan) Kajer of Denver, CO, Layla Kajer (Charly de Pottere), and his great-granddaughter Isla de Pottere, of Denver, CO.

As many of you know, our Dad was a B17, tail gunner during WWII. He had completed 29 missions. Upon the completion of the 30th mission the crew was reassigned to return home.

Mission accomplished Dad. Wheels up...

Memorials are suggested to the Hall County Hero Flight.

Vaden Steen Pitts
(1924-2021)

Lt, U. S. Army Air Force, WWII, son of Warner Posey and Annie Maude Childs Pitts, husband to Mattie Eulalia Edwards Pitts (divorced).

From the Aycok Funeral Home, Port St. Lucie, FL:

Vaden S. Pitts passed away on January 16, 2021 in Port St Lucie, Florida. He grew up in Montross, Virginia. He was 96 years old and was the youngest of 3 boys. He graduated HS and volunteered for the Army Air Force during WWII. He was a member of the 457th Bomb Group and flew 33 missions over Europe from January 14, 1945 to April 17, 1945. He later graduated from Randolph Macon and went on to get his law degree and Master of law degree at Washington University. (now George Washington University in Washington DC.) He practiced law in DC until he retired.

**Vaden Steen
Pitts**
(1924-2021)

Lt, U. S. Army
Air Force,
WWII



He was an avid golfer and enjoyed his daily workout routine, even at 96. He had a wonderful sense of humor. Vaden was survived by his sweetheart of over 40 years, Barbara Getz and her family. Vaden was also survived by his 3 daughters, Carolyn Pitts, Marianne Litzenberger (Earle Litzenberger), and Tricia VanGosen (Daniel VanGosen); three grandchildren, Andrew Litzenberger (Tara Litzenberger), Ashley Litzenberger and Emily Metcalf (Eric Metcalf) and his two great grandchildren, Zachary Litzenberger and Eliana Litzenberger.

*Services will be scheduled at a later date.
Contributions can be made to a charity of your choice.*

Walter F. Creigh

May 10, 1924 - March 3, 2018
(no photo available)

Walter F. Creigh, 93, of Buckley, WA, died Saturday, March 3, 2018 at his home. Interment with private family services were held Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at St. John Cemetery.

An Airman's Prayer

by
Chaplain John Eastwood

*God guard and guide us as we fly
Through the great spaces of the
sky;*

*Be with us as we take to air
In morning light and sunshine
fair.*

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Give us courage and make us
brave;*

*Protect us whereso'er we go,
From shell and flak and fire and
foe.*

Most loved member of our crew.

*Ride with us up in the blue.
Direct our bombs upon the foe
But shelter those whom Thou dost
know.*

*Keep us together on our way,
Grant our work success today.
Deliver us from hate and sin,
And bring us safely down again.*

*O God protect us as we fly
Through lonely ways across the
sky*



Bulletin Board

Newsletter by mail or online?

We hope you have had an opportunity to view the full color **FIREBALL** newsletter online at www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

We will continue to print and mail a black and white version, 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 email at: the457thbgnewsletter@yahoo.com

Our Departed Veterans

During each of our Stateside reunions, a ceremony is held to honor those veterans who have passed away since the previous Stateside reunion. Please let us know if your dear Veteran has passed 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 Stateside reunion.

If anyone has information about deceased members or obituaries, please forward those to us for the next Stateside Memorial Service, to: the457thbgnewsletter@yahoo.com

Condolences for

Our Trisha Mach Robertson

One journey ends and a Heavenly one begins, for our dear friend Trisha. Surrounded by her loving family, she went on to prepare a 457th BG Reunion in the sky, the likes of which only she can imagine. Rest in Heaven my dear friend.

-- from Nancy Archuleta

My very sincerest condolences at the passing of Trisha. She will be sorely missed and very fondly remembered.

I first met Trisha in 2011 at the first 457th reunion I attended. When I entered the memorabilia room for the first time I walked to the large photo displays. I spotted Trisha sitting next to some photo albums and walked over and asked about them. She explained they were taken by her father who was the photographer for the 751st Squadron, the squadron my father was in. I got all misty and started looking for my father. Trisha offered words that were so understanding, comforting, and welcoming that they created one of the best reunion memories I will ever have.

Trisha is special and my memories of her will always be special. God Bless you Trisha.

-- from Kurt Gunderson

I didn't personally know Mrs. Robertson, but when I started working on our **FIREBALL** newsletter a few years ago, she was extremely kind, and trusting of me, enough to mail and share with me some very old and fragile newsletters. Someone that kind is truly special. Rest in Heaven Mrs. Robertson.

--from Dorothy Enriquez

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Past Presidents

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

FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS

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

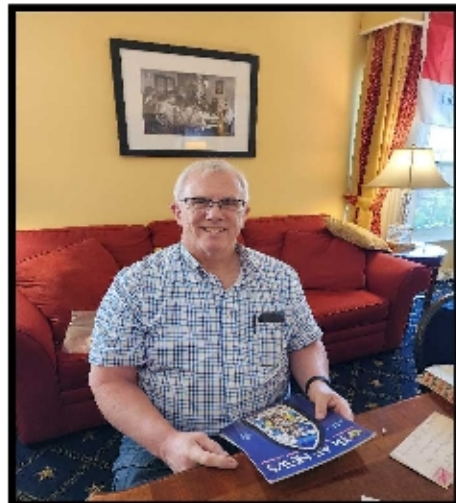
FIND UPDATES HERE:

Website: www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/457thbombgroup

8th Air Force: www.8thafhs.org

Welcome Our New Member



Please make welcome our newest member to the 457th BGA, Joseph Stehle. He is the son of Joseph T. Stehle, Station Adjutant to Colonel Luper, (of Luper's Troopers). In our next issue, we will follow-up with his story.

Notes from the Editor

We would appreciate it if all members, (including Board members), would check their contact information for accuracy.

Should anyone have any comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please feel free to email us. We'd be happy to include your comments in our next issue.

For any comments or corrections, please email: the457thbgnewsletter@yahoo.com

Visit our website today:

www.457thbombgroupassoc.org



457th Hangar Gift Shop

Sadly, we have decided to close the 457th BG Hangar Store. All items have been moved to Will Fluman's Pennsylvania residence and he will attempt to find good homes for them. A few things will be kept for gifts and memorabilia. If you are interested in buying the whole lot, please contact: Will Fluman, mr-short-cut@hotmail.com

Join Us in Preserving the History of the 457th BGA

In his book, *Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck makes the following reference to history: "HOW WILL WE KNOW IT'S US WITHOUT OUR PAST?" The Association was created so that the dedication, commitment, and camaraderie of those that served in the U. S. Army Air Corps, 457th BG (H) would live on not only for them but for us and our descendants. In order to keep the memories alive and recorded, I am establishing an AdHoc Archives Committee to research, gather, and recommend the best methods to accomplish the goal. We are grateful that Eric Zemper has agreed to chair the committee. Per Mr. Zemper, "Most any museum, except those that are quite small, has the problem of housing more material than they could ever display. The Yankee Air Museum has a huge room full of military uniforms and clothing hung on hangers on long racks, probably numbering in the thousands of items. It's impossible to display more than a very small fraction of those at any one time in the display space they have. My understanding is that they occasionally sell some items, but only if the donation agreement allows for it." The question we hope to address is how to exhibit any memorabilia we have in a way that will best honor the legacy. Secondly, there are so many letters, memories, and pictures that all of us have stored either in albums, trunks, and closets that may or may not be something we want to share with future generations.

How You Can Help:

1. Volunteer to serve on the Archive Committee and work with Mr. Zemper to create a sustainable way to preserve our history.
2. Readers are asked to comment on something they read that sparked a memory,

We LIKE You,
LIKE us on Facebook TODAY.



This is a hotspot for posts, pictures, and a forum for our 457th family and friends to gather, share stories, and ask questions.

Find us at:
www.facebook.com/groups/457thbombgroup

2. (continued) or just a general comment they'd like to share. The result would be comparable to what the Reader's Digest and other magazines do.



MEMORABILIA ROOM - an example of how we preserve and share the History of the 457th BG with artifacts, photos, and various memorabilia at our reunions.

PLEASE Join Us

Become a member of the 457th Bomb Group (H) Association and receive our newsletters. Fill out the Membership form included in this newsletter on the last page, then make sure to include your annual dues when you mail in your form to our Treasurer, Adele Gilmore.



457th Bomb Group Association
611 Holmes Ave. NE
Huntsville, AL 35801

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Visit the website today at www.457thbombgroupassoc.org to subscribe online for membership, or, fill in the form below and mail in your subscription and dues to Adele Gilmore, Treasurer.

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, FL 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