



## 451<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group Newsletter No. 8 April 2016



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451<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group  
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### MESSAGE FROM SUSAN

It has been such a humbling experience corresponding and speaking with the 451st veterans and their family members.

The veterans truly are members of the greatest generation. You are humble and proud. Your love for this country is immeasurable. We must never forget what you did. Your stories are what we crave. Please send along any stories or experiences to me to include in a future newsletter.

I am most grateful to Win Jones who managed the 451st from 2008-2015 for his support and guidance, as well as Marsha Morris (Win's daughter) who continues to publish the newsletter.

I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the veterans and family members of the 451st and the donation from Mr. Kurt Listug of the 455th. These donations fund the newsletter. It is so pleasing to hear from veterans and families who love receiving the newsletter.

The joint 2016 BG reunion will be in Dallas, TX Oct 13-16. If you have not attended a reunion, I suggest you do- they are a living history lesson. Once you attend one, you can't wait for the next one- there is no better way to honor these great veterans.

Thank you for your letters and emails. It is an honor to represent you.

Susan.

## 2016 REUNION

The welcome bells are sounding for our upcoming reunion October 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> at Dallas. We again will be meeting with our partners and friends from the 376<sup>th</sup>, 455<sup>th</sup>, 461<sup>st</sup>, 465<sup>th</sup>, 484<sup>th</sup> and 485<sup>th</sup> Bomb Groups. All in all, this should be a very special Reunion. If you happen to be the last living member of your crew, do come to our 2016 Dallas Reunion. You will enjoy a great program and find many survivors in attendance with your situation.

Please send in your Registration relatively soon, this will facilitate our planning. Should you later need to cancel, your Registration payment will of course be refunded to you. Also, in making your hotel room reservation be certain to mention our group code **“Bombardment Groups 2016 Reunion”** to assure receiving the reduced special room rate of \$89 plus tax. Hope to see you in Dallas!

## REUNION ACTIVITIES

### Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> October

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM      Early Registration – Hospitality Room will be open  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM      Optional Informal Dinner & Info Meeting

### Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> October

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM      Registration  
9:00 AM - 1:30 PM      Optional Tour – Cavanaugh Flight Museum w/Lunch  
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM      Veteran led presentations & discussions  
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM      Evening Sit Down Dinner including 451<sup>st</sup> & 455<sup>th</sup> B.G.s  
• 5:30 PM - Cash Bar \*  
• 6:30 PM - Sit Down Dinner followed by B.G. Survivor Pictures

### Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> October

9:20 AM - 1:00 PM      Optional Tour - Sixth Floor Museum  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM      Veteran led presentations & discussions  
5:00 PM - 8:30 PM      Gala Banquet - All Bomb Groups. Entertainment: Ladies Liberty Trio  
• 5:00 PM - Cash Bar\*  
• 6:00 PM - Sit Down Dinner

**Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> October**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM      Memorial Service  
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM      Optional Tour - Dallas Holocaust Museum  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM      Optional Casual Farewell Fajita Dinner

\*Registration & dinner fees do not include the tours or cash bars.

**REUNION MEETINGS**

- The reunion includes the 376<sup>th</sup>, 451<sup>st</sup>, 455<sup>th</sup>, 461<sup>st</sup>, 465<sup>th</sup>, 484<sup>th</sup> and 485<sup>th</sup> Bomb Groups in order to keep our group a strong, viable size.
- Individual group dinners are planned for Friday evening. The 451<sup>st</sup> and 455<sup>th</sup> will meet together as one group and the 376<sup>th</sup>, 461<sup>st</sup>, 465<sup>th</sup>, 484<sup>th</sup> and 485<sup>th</sup> will each have their own group dinner.
- Bomb Group survivor pictures will be taken Friday evening after the banquet.
- Saturday evening is the Gala Banquet including all Bomb Groups.
- Saturday banquet will include live entertainment by the trio, Ladies Liberty whose songs include hits from the 40's and Big Band era performed by the likes of Bob Hope and the Andrews sisters. A dance floor will be available for those who still want to "cut a rug"! The Ladies Liberty website states that "Ladies Liberty performing troupe is dedicated to the All Around Good of our Country & World, from the land we live in, the values we hold as a nation, to the people that live among us and overseas. We humbly and gratefully recognize our heroes who so bravely serve to keep America safe and free! We are here to empower anyone we can through entertainment!"

**REUNION HOTEL**

Wyndham Garden Dallas North Hotel  
2645 Lyndon B Johnson FWY, Dallas, TX 75234  
Hotel Direct Line: (972) 243-3363 – Ask for In-House Reservations  
Group Booking Code is: Bombardment Groups 2016 Reunion

If you prefer, reserve online:

<http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/texas/dallas/wyndham-garden-dallas-north/hotel-overview?>

- Room rates are \$89 plus tax and includes up to two full, hot breakfast buffet coupons (including made-to-order omelets) per room per day. Each additional person in a room will be charged \$5.00 for breakfast each day.
- Parking is plentiful and free.
- Complimentary airport shuttle to BOTH Love Field and DFW airports.

- Airport Shuttle Pick-up – For pick-up at the airport, call the front desk at **972-243-3363** and instruct the front desk as to your Gate and Terminal. The front desk will provide instruction on where the shuttle will meet you. The shuttle does not run continuously so you must call the front desk to arrange pickup at the airport.
- Hotel Shuttle to Airport - For return transport to the airport, arrange for the shuttle at the front desk. The front desk will instruct you on departure time from the lobby.
- Mobility issues, be sure to mention this when you make your reservation and the hotel will attempt to accommodate you near the elevators.
- Room refrigerators are available upon request.
- The group rate is good three days prior to and three days past the reunion dates so come early and enjoy fall in Dallas.

## **REUNION ITINERARY**

### **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Arrival and check in day. A welcome team with gift bags from the municipality of Farmers Branch will be on hand to greet you at the hotel. The hospitality room and registration table will be open with heavy hors d'oeuvres served in the afternoon.

6:00 PM – Optional Welcome Dinner featuring an Italian Buffet will be held in Couture Rooms I&II  
7:00 PM - All group informational meeting will be held in the Couture Room that will include a welcome address from the Mayor of Farmers Branch. Feel free to attend this meeting even if you don't join for dinner.

### **Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

9:00 AM - Depart hotel for optional tour of the Cavanaugh Flight Museum. We will have lunch in one of the hangers before departing for the return trip to the hotel.

1:00 PM - Depart Cavanaugh Flight Museum for return to hotel

2:30 – 4:30 PM – Veteran led presentations and discussions.

5:30 PM – Social hour before dinner with cash bar.

6:30 PM – Individual Group Banquets. 451<sup>st</sup> and 455<sup>th</sup> will meet together.

7:30 PM – Bomb Group Survivor Pictures

### **Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

9:20 AM – Depart hotel for optional tour of the Sixth Floor Museum, the location from where Lee Harvey Oswald fired on President John F. Kennedy. Lunch will be on the Seventh Floor where you will be able to view an exhibit concerning the upcoming election cycle of that time.

12:00 PM - Depart the Sixth Floor Museum for return to hotel. Note – lunch is not provided with the tour.

2:00 – 4:00 PM – Veteran led presentations and discussions.

5:00 PM – Social hour before dinner with cash bar.

6:00 PM – All Bomb Groups. Entertainment: Lady Liberty Trio featuring songs from the 40's and Big Band era.

### **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

9:00 AM – Memorial Service

NOON – Depart hotel for optional tour of the Dallas Holocaust Museum & Driving Tour of Dallas

1:45 PM – Depart museum for driving tour of Dallas with 4:30 pm return to hotel. Note – lunch is not provided.

6:00 PM – Optional Casual Farewell Fajitas Dinner in Couture Rooms 3&4.

### **REUNION TOURS**

- Tours are first class venues that you will really enjoy
- For some tours, there may be substantial walking – wheelchairs are on hand at the venues
- All tours are optional. Tour cost is not included in base registration fee.

### **Cavanaugh Flight Museum (\$44 per person) – Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

Cavanaugh Flight Museum, a complex of four hangers filled with an outstanding collection of military aircraft. You'll be so close that you can actually reach out and touch the nose of the P-40 Warhawk! Their most recent acquisition is the only flying B-25H that is equipped with two .50 caliber machine guns and a 75mm canon in the nose! We will have lunch in one of the hangers before departing for the return trip to the hotel at 1:00 PM arriving by 1:30 PM.

### **Sixth Floor Museum (\$35 per person) – Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

Sixth Floor Museum, the location from where Lee Harvey Oswald fired on President John F. Kennedy. This and the entire area are remembered by all of us who were of age during that fateful day, November 22, 1963. This is a very powerful museum to visit. PLEASE NOTE: The tour buses will depart the hotel at 10 minute intervals to make things go more smoothly at the ticket counter and while entering the museum. The first bus will depart the hotel at 9:20 AM, the next at 9:30 AM and the last at 9:40 AM. We will re-board the buses for the return trip to the hotel at 12:00 PM. Note – Lunch is not provided with this tour.

**Dallas Holocaust Museum & City Tour (\$37 per person) – Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

Depart Wyndham Garden Dallas North Hotel at 12:00 Noon to tour the Dallas Holocaust Museum that will feature a holocaust survivor who will address our group. Depart Dallas Holocaust Museum at 1:45 PM for a driving tour of the downtown Dallas area before the return trip to the hotel, arriving sometime around 4:30 PM. Note – lunch is not provided as part of this tour.

**REUNION REGISTRATION**

Please return the registration form at the end of the newsletter.

**DONATIONS**

It is an honor to report that the 451<sup>st</sup> received the remaining funds from the 455<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. The 455<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group has suspended operations but we are fortunate to have some their members join with us at the annual reunions. We appreciate their generosity and support.

Should you desire to honor a crewmate or family member, just make a memorial donation of \$50 or more. Please send along the full name and duty position of the person being honored. Importantly, do send all donations in care of our new 451<sup>st</sup> B.G. Manager, Susan Tudor Prince.

Memorial contributions recently received are as follows:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Tribute To</u>
Briggs, Blaine A.	Members of the 451st
Buford, Coy	The Harry Pascoe crew
Hill, Sedge & Wilma	George Tudor, Pilot and Joseph Goward
Jones, Win	Mike Stauth
McCollough, Margene & Ron	Win Jones
Prince, Susan Tudor	George Tudor, Pilot
Wiest, Edwin	Jeston Wiest, Nose Gunner
Yates, June H.	Robert M. Finehout, Pilot

Donations also have been received from the following since the November 2015 Newsletter:

Anderson, Charles  
McKinney, Nathan

Collins, Kenneth  
Newman DDS, Linn

Pendleton, Andrew

**LAST FLYBY**

Here are the death notifications received since our November 2015 Newsletter.

451st Member	Squadron	Duty Position	DOD
Brown, William E.		Support	06.20.2015
Dorval, Rene H.	726th	Turret Specialist	10.18.2011
Gosinski, Ted	725th	Gunner	01.12.2013
Harren, Richard E.	726th	Navigator	05. _____.2015
Hynes, Francis D.	724th	Ball Turret Gunner	08.24.2015
Little Jr., Harland B.		Nose Gunner	04.29.2014
Morin, Arthur	727th	Tail Gunner	09. _____.2015
Muczynski, Stanley F.	725th	Radio Operator-Gunner	02.19.2014
Peterson, Frank W.	724th	Gunner-Engineer	12. _____.2014
Ruggiero, Dante A.		Ball Turret Gunner	05.08.2015
Sabec, Ernest J.		Navigator	01.22.2016
Shafer, Edwin H.	727th	Mail Clerk	02.13.2014
Stauth, A. Mike	727th	Flight Engineer-Gunner	01.24.2016
Wesley, Harold J.		E.C.M. Com	10.11.2015
Wiest, Jestion J.	724th	Flight Engineer-Gunner	08.19.2015

**In Tribute to Andrew Michael (Mike) Stauth**

During WWII, Mike flew 50 missions as Flight Engineer with our 451<sup>st</sup> B.G. in the early months of 1944. He experienced many challenges during his tour of duty including having his B-24 and yet another 451<sup>st</sup> B-24 land at the same time upon returning from a bombing mission. Both planes were “out of gas” and had been given approval for emergency landings at our 451<sup>st</sup> Base. The first of the two B-24s landed “short” at the very end of the runway, then Mike’s plane flew over the first plane and dropped down at about the mid-point of the runway. Mike said that when they touched down, there was still a third B-24 ahead of his plane that had not cleared the runway. These most unique safe landings were the subject of extended hearings and discussions at the Base!

Mike was born August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1923 at Dodge City Kansas as the tenth of eleven children. He passed away at Scottsdale Arizona on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

During the post war years, Mike and his wife Helen, were strong supporters of our 451<sup>st</sup> Alumni Association. They both attended all of the Reunions through number 17. Also, Mike joined with Winson (Big) Jones and our historian, Randy Jones in numerous meetings in the Phoenix-Tucson area over an extended period of time incident to mini-reunions of 451<sup>st</sup> veterans living in that area.

## VOICES OF VALOR – NATHAN MCKINNEY

Below is an excerpt of the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 article in the Waco Tribune featuring Nathan McKinney:

“...he and a friend decided to enlist on July 8, 1940, to avoid the draft. They went to Kelly Air Field in San Antonio, where McKinney hoped to enter the Air Corps and be a pilot.

To his dismay, he didn’t weigh enough. The recruiter told him to go out and eat a bunch of bananas and drink plenty of water. He returned and the recruiter let him pass. Then, when he went for his physical, the doctor said he had a heart murmur and couldn’t be a pilot. He was offered a discharge, but declined, saying, “I’ll go back in the line (with the airplanes).”

His first assignment was as assistant crew chief on a BC-1 with the 61st School Squadron at Kelly Field. Everything, he said, was left over from World War I — buildings, uniforms and all of the equipment. The airplanes had been manufactured just after WWI.

Within three months, he became a crew chief and got his own BC-1. “I was in hog heaven,” he said. One night while on KP duty, he was told he had been promoted to staff sergeant. Eight months later, he made technical sergeant, adding a stripe to his other four.

He had many transfers, to Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, then to Roswell, New Mexico, where he became a master sergeant. Then it was to B-24 pilot training school in Arizona, where he worked on the flight line.

From there, war was on. McKinney was transferred to the 727th Squadron of the 451st Bomb Group in Pinecastle, Florida. He became line chief of the 727th and went through transfers to Utah, to Nebraska — where they received 12 new planes — and back to Florida before heading off across the Atlantic in 1943.

They flew from Florida to Trinidad, then to Bellini and Natal, both in Brazil, waiting to cross the ocean. Then it was on to Africa. Christmas was spent in Morocco before they reached an American base in Tunisia.

“That was a horrible place to be,” McKinney said. “It rained like hell.”

They reached Castellucia, Italy, where they were stationed for the duration. The group flew some 200 missions. Afterward, McKinney would inspect each plane.

At one point his weight dropped to 110 pounds, a result of working 16- to 18-hour days. In December 1944, his commanders sent him to Rome for needed rest.

## Audience with the Pope

On a visit to the Vatican, a cardinal volunteered to show him around. At the end of the tour, McKinney was offered an audience — with Pope Pius XII.

“I give credit to Pope Pius for my longevity,” McKinney said, adding that he was blessed by the pontiff. In 1945, he was among the servicemen who drove all the 727th vehicles to Naples where he caught a ship home, eventually landing in Newport News, Virginia. While on a 30-day leave, a buddy got him a date with Clara Louise Harrel. Married six months later, they were together for 56 years until her death in 1999.”

**Note - The full article appears online at: [http://www.wacotrib.com/news/veterans\\_profiles/voices-of-valor-nathan-mckinney/article\\_0ba12be8-d62f-5b66-b63d-d762fb584e45.html](http://www.wacotrib.com/news/veterans_profiles/voices-of-valor-nathan-mckinney/article_0ba12be8-d62f-5b66-b63d-d762fb584e45.html)**

#### **MISSION TO REGENSBURG – FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup>, 1945**

On Feb 25, 71 years ago 25 liberators were lost in Europe, mostly on the way to Regensburg and back: 42-100368, 42-7589, 42-52100, 41-29194, 41-29214, 42-7727, 42-52148, 42-64443, 42-7746, 41-29281, 42-52302, 42-52266, 42-52242, 41-28699, 42-52300, 42-52210, 41-24147, 42-100323, 42-100266, 42-7765, 42-52101, 42-52167, 42-52168, 42-7738 and 41-29244.

The bombers and their crews went through the hell and back and 451st Bomb Group received the Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for the effort on this day. The 451st Bomb Group lost six B-24 bombers:

- 42-7738 - Hard to get, 726 sq - crash site: Farla di Majano, Italy
- 42-52168 - The Citadel, 725 sq - crash site: hill Balon, Zederhaus, Austria
- 42-52167 - Willie Wee, 725 sq - crash site: Zabrd, Spodnje Danje – Ratitovec, Slovenia
- 42-52101 - Peacemaker, 724 sq - crash site: Vrba pri Dobrni, Slovenia
- 42-7765 - Knock it off, 724 sq - crash site: Pokošče - Zavrh pri Borovnici, Slovenia
- 41-29244 - Double Trouble, 725 sq - crash site: Kotlice, Blekovske gmajne - Logatec, Slovenia.

The Double Trouble crewmembers were:

Pries, Edwin H.	Pilot	KIA
Gerrity, Frank R.	Co-Pilot	POW
Cottrell, James W.	Navigator	POW
Evens, George A.	Bombardier	POW
Koslow, Harold	Upper Turret Gunner	POW
Varga, Steve	Lower Turret Gunner	KIA
McCord, Joseph J.	Right Waist Gunner	KIA
Scafidi, Salvatore P.	Left Waist Gunner	KIA

Abernathy, Don T.	Nose Gunner	POW
Tokarski, Thaddeus S.	Nose Gunner	KIA

In 2014 the monuments for the Peacemaker and the Double Trouble were placed in a memory of the planes and the crews. The monument for 41-29244 was placed on the day (15. Oct) when the last crew member took his last flight one year before.

Now they are together again.

Rest in peace now and thank you for your sacrifice.

Renaty Van Der Bric

**Comment from Achilles Kozakis:** "A story that has to be told, Renaty and Raoul have published a book titled: "41-29244" The serial number of the B-24 named "Double Trouble" that downed in Slovenia. The book is a Five Star and the photos shown on 98% of the 222 pages are fantastic. A read for everyone."

## 451st & 455th BOMB GROUPS REUNION Registration

October 13—16, 2016 ~ Dallas, Texas

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Names as they are to appear on name tags: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 each Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

Informal Welcome Italian Buffet Dinner # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$27.00 each Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

Cavanaugh Flight Museum & Lunch # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$44.00 each Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Group Evening Dinner

Salmon # \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Chablis # \_\_\_\_\_ Veggie Trio # \_\_\_\_\_  
@ \$30.50 each Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

Sixth Floor Museum # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 each Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

All Groups Evening Banquet

Petite Filet # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40.50 each Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Cordon Bleu # \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Tart # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$36.00 ea. Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

Dallas Holocaust Museum & Driving Tour of Dallas

# people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$37.00 each Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

Farewell Fajita Informal Dinner # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$29.50 each Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

(Fajita buffet will include some items for Vegetarians too.)

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Wheelchair(s) needed? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your check (payable to 451 BG Reunion) to:

Susan Prince 14 Reservation Road Andover MA 01810

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14 Reservation Road  
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