



Attlebridge Notes



SUMMER 2022

Come to

*Washington
D.C.!*

OCTOBER 19-23, 2022

8TH AFHS ANNUAL REUNION
& 466TH BGA MEETING
CRYSTAL CITY MARRIOTT

USAF MEMORIAL

NEAR ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Photo by Steve Jordon

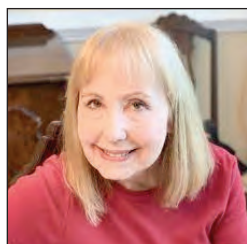
*See
inside!*

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From Your President, Steve Jordon



Greetings! The future is unclear for 466th Bomb Group Association. Will younger Americans continue to preserve the legacy of those who fought for democracy? It's the same situation for the entire 8th Air Force Historical Society, says Debra Kujawa, managing director. Helen and I believe younger people must answer "Yes!" to her column in the March 2022 Mighty Eighth's AF News.



Create your legacy and pass the baton.
- Billie Jean King

In 1942, during the early days of WWII, the US 8th Air Force began handing out "batons" (in the form of military orders) to young men and women, who had eagerly signed up to do their part in fighting the evils of the Third Reich and Adolph Hitler. By the end of the war in 1945, over 250,000 individuals had taken part in the Herculean effort to secure global freedom.

But it didn't end there.

Many of those who fought in WWII went on to serve in both Korea and Vietnam. While some were too young to enlist during the '40s, the '50s and '60s saw a steady stream of men and women eager to serve their country. Often, these were the brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters of WWII veterans -- all ready to offer their lives in the name of freedom.

In today's 8th Air Force, many young men and women are serving because their grandfathers took that baton that was handed to them the day they enlisted, and in turn, they passed it along to their children and grandchildren.

It is this legacy -- this incredible heritage of birthright -- which continues to this day. For the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, THIS is our baton. And it is time to pass it on.

Most of our WWII veterans who are still with us are nearly 100 years old and older! They have passed their batons, their legacies, to us -- not to be shelved in a library or museum -- but to be shared with everyone. Our veterans who have served since WWII and who continue to serve today -- THEY are passing their batons, too.

Please. OPEN your hands and get a firm grasp. We cannot allow these legacies to fade into silence.

With love always,

Deb

Debra D. Kujawa, managing director, 8th Air Force Historical Society
Editor, The AF News, Voice of "The Mighty Eighth"

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From your co-editors, Helen & Steve Jordon



Helen, Steve, Jin, Ingrid, Leland

Steve and I were lucky to be able to fly to Baltimore in May to witness the graduation of our daughter-in-law, Jin Jordon, from her study of sonography. We are planning to fly to Reagan

National in October for the 48th Annual Reunion of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, masked and vaxxed. We certainly hope that many of you who receive this issue of Attlebridge Notes can be there, too! *Check out the details here and register NOW! DO NOT DELAY!!!*

Helen Jordon

466th BGA Board, Summer, 2022

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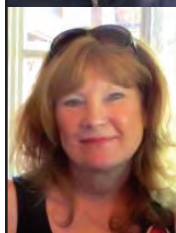


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Get "Attlebridge Notes" by e-mail!

To ALL Members of the 466th Bomb Group Association:

The biggest expense of the 466th BGA

is the printing and mailing of our bi-annual newsletter, "Attlebridge Notes."

Many organizations are moving from printed mailings to delivery by e-mail.

If you would like to help pare down our costs or would not mind having less paper come into your home, please let us know and send us your e-mail address so that we can be sure that you receive the digital file.

Contact secretary Beverly Tomb:

Secretary466thBGA@gmail.com

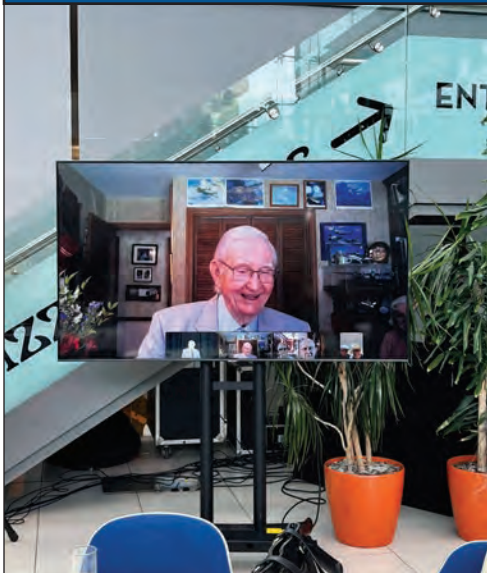
SEE Page 19 for the Treasurer's Report and the Notice and Agenda for the October Annual Meeting.



LIBRARIES & THE 466TH BGA

The American Library Re-Opening Ceremony May 18, 2022

By Beverly Baynes Tomb, 466th BGA Secretary



In mid-May, 2022, Heritage League President Marybeth Dyer and husband Steve, with Past Presidents Beverly Tomb and Irene Hurner, traveled to Norwich, England, for the celebration of the re-opening of the American Library (originally scheduled for April 22, 2020, delayed by COVID).

The 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust Governors and staff planned a marvelous evening in the central lobby of the Millenium Forum, with sparkling drinks offered as we arrived, photos on screens from the American Library digital archive, a live band, bouquets of red, white and blue flowers, delicious canapes and lovely guest speakers.



The highlight of the evening for many of the attendees was guest appearances via Zoom by three of our 2nd Air Division veterans: Earl Wassom (466th) from Kentucky, Bob Birmingham (458th) from Wisconsin and Allan Hallett (389th) from Massachusetts, appearing on large video screens beside the stage.

Richard Middleton, Chairman of the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division, served as the Master of Ceremonies. He interviewed each of the Veterans, getting their thoughts on their library and what it means to them. It was delightful to launch the celebration with the virtual visits from our Veterans.

Clockwise from upper left: 466th Veteran Earl Wassom of Kentucky talks via Zoom at the celebration about about his World War II experiences; live music and delicious food add to the festivities; speakers include Memorial Trust Chairman Richard Middleton, left, Margaret Dewsbury of the Norfolk County Council and USAF Col. Charles Metrolis of the U.S. Embassy.

Richard also shared a brief history of the 2nd Air Memorial Division Library from its start in 1963 as the American Room in the Norwich Central Library, to the fire that destroyed the library in 1994, and to its rebirth as the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library in the Norfolk County Council's Millenium Library in the Forum in 2001. The goal of the £400,000 refurbishment project, begun in 2019 and celebrated at this event, was to keep the library "relevant, inspirational and a guiding influence, in line with the aims the veterans laid down 77 years ago."

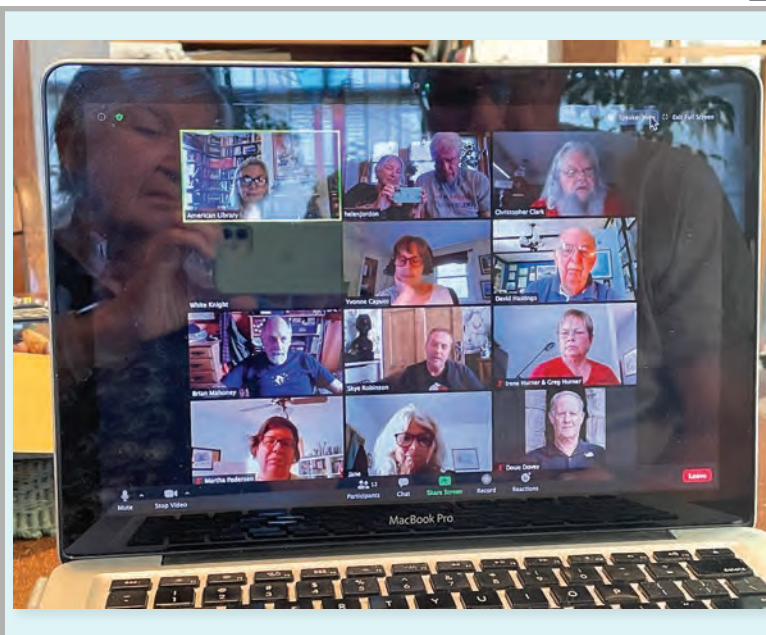
Research showed that the name "2nd Air Division Memorial Library" didn't resonate with users, and rebranding became part of the project. The full name of the library is *American Library, Memorial to the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, United States Army Air Forces*. In day-to-day usage, it is the *American Library*.

Honored speakers were Counsellor Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships at Norfolk County Council, and USAF Col. Charles Metrolis, Air Attaché to the U.K. from the U.S. Embassy.

After the speeches, attendees had the opportunity to tour the new American Library. It was a special night and we were all excited to visit with our British friends and catch up after such a long time away.

The event was live-streamed on YouTube, and can still be viewed at this link. The ceremony begins at 38:38. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9to0lt_dyws

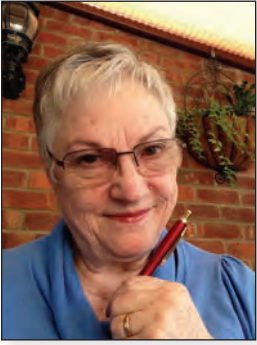
Above right: A U.S. map shows the states which sent their sons and daughters to fight World War II from the Norfolk region. Right: Attending the dedication with Beverly Baynes Tomb was Sir John White, a faithful friend of the 466th.



American Museum Coffee and Conversation

About a year ago the American Museum began hosting monthly trans-Atlantic Zoom conversations, as in the July session at left. The informal sessions attract people interested in the Museum, the 8th Air Force, World War II and related topics. Typically, about half the participants are from the U.K., where it's early evening, and half from the U.S., where it's late morning. We learn a lot about each other by listening and contributing!

Helen & Steve Jordon



Ann Reeve
Eyewitness
Our Correspondent
Who Grew Up
at Attlebridge

DAD'S ARMY

The Home Guard:
Their main weapon was determination.

In the early months of 1940 things were not going well for Britain. Germany had overwhelmed France and Belgium, forcing the British Army to withdraw via Dunkirk in northern France. Thousands of servicemen were rescued by sea in all sorts of craft, ranging from large ships to fishing vessels and small sea-going private pleasure boats. This meant a loss of virtually all their weaponry and equipment, which had to be abandoned. Germany followed this with an aerial bombardment which became known as The Battle of Britain, and there was a very real threat that Britain would be invaded by German paratroopers or from the sea.

In May 1940 the Secretary of State for War, Anthony Eden, called for men to report to their local police station to form the Local Defence Volunteers. Volunteers would be aged between 17 and 70 working in industries which were exempt from conscription, or were just too young or too old! Within 24 hours they'd run out of enrolment forms, and there were more than 30,000 volunteers in our county of Norfolk alone. Organisation was, in typical British style, delegated to the aristocracy and, as my Grandmother would have described them, the "Gentry." In Norfolk they included Mr. Russell Colman of the Colman's Mustard family and Sir Dymoke White of Salle Hall, whose descendant, Sir John White, is a friend of the Attlebridge 120 Visitor Centre.

I don't think there was a Unit at Weston Longville or Attlebridge, but there was a Unit at Hockering, the adjoining village.

The initial role of the Volunteers would be Obstruction -- e.g., creating road blocks when necessary -- and Patrol and Protection, e.g., guarding all vulnerable buildings. There was no uniform apart from an armband, and they had no weapons so there was national appeal for weaponry. This resulted in a donation, among others, of guns from His Majesty the King's gun room at Sandringham and some muskets dating from the Crimean War (1854-56) from the Castle Museum in Norwich! Weapons arriving from the USA were issued to the Regular Army.

Volunteers in Norfolk were predominately farm workers, many of whom would have owned guns and were proficient at shooting rats, rabbits and the odd pheasant. But the volunteers didn't wait for weapons. They started training straight away improvising with broomsticks, pitchforks and the odd golf club. They practised throwing grenades using turnips and sugar beets, but their main weapon was determination. Many were WWI veterans including my maternal grandfather who would have been in his 50s and suffering from chronic bronchial asthma.

By the end of 1940 Prime Minister Winston Churchill provided uniforms and renamed the organisation as The Home Guard. Eventually conscription was introduced to keep up the numbers but they still had to continue with their regular work.

By 1941 they were highly trained guerrilla fighters and had also been issued with fighting daggers, garrottes and knuckle dusters.

By 1942 they were expected to support and assist the Civil Defence, the Police and the Fire Service. They were helping with coastal defences and some were even guarding USAAF stations! I don't know if that included Attlebridge 120. They had the authority to stop and search, check ID papers and make arrests.

Churchill once said, "If the Nazi villains drop down upon us, either by paratroop raid or bombs on our factories, you (The Home Guard) will make it clear to them they have not alighted in a poultry run, or in a rabbit farm or even a sheep field but the they have come down in a lion's den."

Dear Churchill, the master of the bon mot.
 The Home Guard was stood down on 11th Sept 1944, although many units continued to meet on an ad hoc basis. I can remember Grandad attending Home Guard meetings after the war had ended.



Let's not forget that these men who were prepared to lay down their lives to protect their homes and families were, as far as Norfolk was concerned, mainly ordinary, humble farm workers. They included my grandfather Arthur Warr, a WWI veteran of the Somme; my father-in-law Ernest Reeve, who served in the Royal Navy in submarines in the 1920s; and my uncles Fred Clarke and Clifford Stannard, both of whom were farm labourers. They were still having to work long hours, sometimes from 6 am 'til 10 pm during the harvest, and they could be fined for not attending training or parades. Heroes, all of them.

I don't know if you can find "Dad's Army" on Netflix or Britbox. It ran on the BBC from 1968 till 1977. It's a sitcom but however silly the story, it's all based on fact. Most of the information for this piece was garnered from the book "Standing up to Hitler" by Adrian Hoare, to whom I am grateful. -- Ann Reeve



A wartime pillbox on our beach at Hemsby. It's of the sort used by the Home Guard when on guard duties but I don't know if they used this one. It gets battered by the North Sea tides every day and sometimes gets buried by the winter storms. It seems that 1940s concrete was pretty good quality! -- Ann Reeve



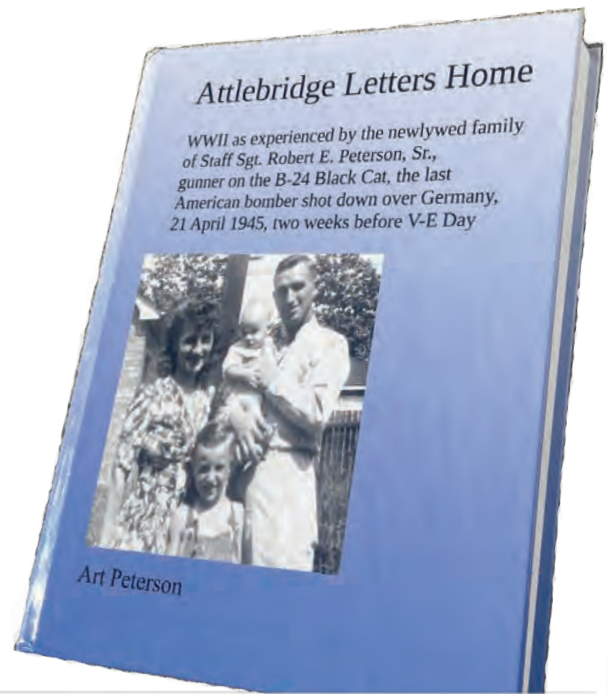
The weekend of June 5, 2022, Attlebridge Notes Columnist Ann Reeve celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, as did all of England, and much of the world. Some of us even remember Elizabeth II's Coronation! The 466th BGA will always be connected intimately with England and we thank Ann Reeve and Paul Hindle for keeping us informed!





Crew #769 & #487

Richard J. Farrington Crew 466th BG – 787th and 784th Bomb Squadrons. Back, Left to Right: John C. Murphy (RN), John A. Perella (N), John A. Regan (CP), Richard J. Farrington (P), George E. Noe (PN), Chris Manners (B). Front, Left to Right: **Robert E. Peterson** (TG), John C. Brennan (WG), Jerome Barrett (FE), Howard G. Goodner (R/O), Albert Seraydarian (G). This was the last 466th BG and indeed the last 8th AF B-24 crew shot down in WWII. Manners and Seraydarian bailed out and survived. The others in the photo, plus Command Pilot Louis C. Wieser, were KIA.



Attlebridge Letters Home

Book sales to go to Attlebridge Visitors Centre

By Steve Jordon
President
466th Bomb Group Association

Bob Peterson's dreams were not to be.

Thirty-eight days after writing the letter at left, he was at his waist gunner's post in the B-24 named "Black Cat" when one of its wings was split by an anti-aircraft shell, sending him and nine other Americans to their deaths in a farm field near Scharmassing, Germany.

Now Bob's story is told in a new book published by his younger son, Art Peterson, titled "Attlebridge Letters Home." Proceeds from the book sale go to the Attlebridge Visitors Centre restoration project at Bob's World War II air base, the wartime home of the 466th Bomb Group.

So far, sales have raised more than \$2,000 for the project.

The 399-page hardcover book, 8.5 by 11 inches, contains photocopies of hundreds of Bob's letters to Marie until his death, from training camps to the air base in northeast England.

The book includes other documents such as newspaper clippings about the Black Cat, photos of memorial sites and stories that Peterson wrote about the tragedy as a newspaper reporter. "Attlebridge Letters Home" lets Bob and Marie tell their story directly to the reader.

Summertime here. Green grass ... birds in trees ... bees ... flowers ... and green grass. Makes me lonesome for those green Ozarks. Fishing time!! Sometimes I think some of opening a resort in those hills for summer tourists. Be nice with modern cabins -- a small airport -- a restaurant -- small grocery store and maybe a roller skating or dance floor. I dream all kinds of things. As yet I am not completely sure of what I will do at war's end. You will have to help me decide.
-- Staff Sgt. Robert L. Peterson Sr.
March 14, 1945, letter to his wife, Marie.

To purchase the book:
U.S.:
Send a \$45 check to Arthur Peterson at:
Arthur G. Peterson
3416 Chelmsford Dr.
Spring Grove, IL 60081-9638
U.K.:
Contact Lisa Savory Mansfield
minnie160178@gmail.com

All proceeds go to the Attlebridge Visitors Centre project. Additional donations are appreciated.

The Black Cat, piloted by Richard Farrington, was the last B-24 shot down in Europe during the war, a fate that made it and its crew famous. Two crew members managed to parachute safely and were liberated from a German prisoner of war camp within a few weeks.

Marie saved Bob's letters and other documents in a large cardboard box and gave it to Art about 50 years ago. He looked inside but set the box aside in a closet until the early 1990s.

The trigger was a call from Tom Childers, who was researching his 1995 book "Wings of Morning," the definitive history of the Black Cat.

"That night was a long one as I went through the collection for the first time, amidst more than a few tears," Art said. Some of Marie's material made it into Childers' book.

Later Art realized the historic importance of the letters. Five years ago he began arranging the material in chronological order and scanning the letters and other documents.

Marie raised Art and his older brother, Robert Jr., but did not have more children. She remarried later in life and outlived that husband, too. She was active in the Gold Star Wives, serving as president of the group's Chicago chapter. She died in 2011 at age 99.

Art, 78, retired after working as a reporter and editor for the Lake County-Waukegan News-Sun for nearly 40 years, serving for a time as president of the Chicago Newspaper Guild, the Northern Illinois Newspaper Association, chairman of his local Zoning Board, and Vice-President of the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF). He and his wife, Sandy, a retired English teacher and president of the local library board, live in Spring Grove, Illinois.

Copies of the book have been accepted into the archives of several museums, including the National World War II Museum, the U.S. Air Force Air University Museum, the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and the American Library in Norwich, U.K.

Out of 100 initial printings of the book, about 35 remain available for purchase. Art said a second printing is not likely, but "never say never."

*In his last letter to Marie,
written the day before the fatal mission, Bob wrote:*

I do realize the strain you are under, looking after a house and raising two boys ... I should soon be home. ... I think that in a few years or months after becoming a civilian that I will be ready to build a home of our own. Want a house where I can look out any window and not see a house closer than 1/2 mile. I want air and open spaces. Thinking of you and hoping to have you in my arms soon, I love you, Bob.



*John Woolnough, Jr. and his family came to visit his father's wartime base on June 18, 2022. His father, **Lt. John H. Woolnough**, was a B-24 pilot who completed 30 combat missions from 22 March 1944 to 19 November 1944, retiring from USAF as a Lt. Colonel. After retirement Lt. Col. Woolnough founded the 466th Bomb Group Association and the 8th Air Force Historical Society. He also found time to write a number of books including the "Attlebridge Diaries." Truly an amazing man*

Paul Hindle

"It is quite evident that not only is it a thoroughly researched historical document which will add to our knowledge of those times, but that it is also written with deep feeling. The picture of the family on the cover says everything: ordinary people involved in extraordinary events and making unimaginable sacrifices."

-- Richard Middleton, chairman, 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust

*Arthur
George Peterson
and his grandson,
Beau George
Cosentino.*

*Photo by
Nicole Cosentino*





Across the Pond....

Paul Hindle's brilliant news from Attlebridge

Summer 2022

The small crew of volunteers are delighted to announce we have finished restoring the main 466th BG Heritage Centre building and are now ready to accept donated 466th Bomb Group memorabilia to fill the display cabinets.

Please get in touch if you can help. It will be very much appreciated.

The "Then and Now" photographs show the amount of work we have done to take the building back to how it was in 1944-45. At the moment with the weather being kind to us, we are landscaping an area for car parking. This will be grassed over and in the autumn we will be planting trees to replace self-sown sycamore trees that were growing in rubble from demolished buildings.

Many thanks to everybody who has donated money to make this "Awesome" project happen, especially Art Peterson, who is kindly donating all sales of the first edition of his book "Attlebridge Letters Home" to the project. If you would like to buy a book and help fund the project please send a cheque to Art Peterson. The article "Letters Home" on Pages 8 & 9 in this issue will tell you all about it!

Yours faithfully, Paul Hindle, project manager.



Art Peterson's new book, "Letters Home" is displayed on Paul's WWII Jeep. All the proceeds from the sale of this book will go toward the ongoing renovation of the Attlebridge Visitors Centre.

Our very own Lisa Savory Mansfield has kindly taken over the voluntary treasurer's job from Paul. Thanks, Lisa! This means that any money you wish to donate to this ongoing "awesome" project needs to be directed to Lisa. Her email:

minnie160178@gmail.com

or 72 Blithemeadow Drive, Sprowston, Norwich Nr7 8pz, UK.



Many thanks to Green Label Poultry Ltd., the Weston airfield turkey farm tenants and the family of the late Bernard Matthews (land owners) for their kind permission in allowing us to preserve parts of this historic airfield, Attlebridge 120 (Weston Longville).



Attlebridge

Contact: Paul Hindle
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eileenhindle@talktalk.net
or on Facebook

From the Editors: As soon as travel allows, get yourselves over to Norwich and see this wonderfully historic place. You will never forget!



Editors' Note: Much has changed at the Attlebridge Visitors Centre since we were here in 2014! See it in person!



TAPS



If you know 466th veterans or their family members who should receive the Attlebridge Notes, or know about one of our veterans who has died, please contact **Beverly Baynes Tomb** or **Martha Curtis** to update our mailing list and our TAPS record. See Page 3 for their contact information. AND, if you have an e-mail address, please let us know.

As I have read about the lives of these veterans, there is a common theme. All were willing to have their lives, their education and all their plans for the future be interrupted to serve in the Army Air Corps.

When they returned home, they went back to complete their education, thanks to the GI Bill. They married and raised families.

And they went on to lead successful, busy and active lives in their communities. As always, it has been a privilege to remember and honor these veterans.

We want to offer our sympathy to the families of these men and to the men who served with them at Station 120, Attlebridge.

*Martha Horney Curtis, 466th BGA Board member
and Daughter of Crew #633, Navigator*

Summer 2022 Taps

Rev. Dr. Robert “Bob” Bluford, Jr., Richmond, VA, April 30, 2022, Crew #581/497, Pilot.

Bob Bluford was a native of Richmond, graduating from John Marshall High School. He was attending Hampton-Sydney College as ministerial student when he volunteered to serve in the Air Corps and was trained as a pilot.

His crew at Attlebridge served from February until April 1945, when hostilities ended. Their first 13 missions were with the 785th Squadron and the last two as a lead plane with the 784th. Because of his education and his goal to become a Presbyterian minister after the war, Bob became known as the “flying parson.” When the crew arrived at Attlebridge, one of the older and very war-weary planes on the base had been named “Parson's Chariot.” When it was retired, Bob got permission to name the plane they were flying the same name. When the war ended, he flew this “Parson's Chariot” back to the states, along with the squadron commander, Col. Herman Laubrich. Back home Bob continued his studies, receiving his Masters and Doctoral degrees in Theology. He first served as campus pastor at what is now Virginia Tech. His career included churches in North and South Carolina, and for 13 years was the director of Campus Christian Life for the Presbyterian Church, USA. He was always active in many social and civil rights issues and extremely involved in historic preservation sites in Virginia, including the Historic Polegreen Church. The Virginia Press Association named him Virginian of the Year in 2011.

Bob lived until age 103. He and his wife, June, were married for 72 years. She predeceased him. He is survived by a son and two daughters and their families. Bob Bluford's memorial service was held at Overbrook Presbyterian church in Henrico, VA. Contributions in his memory can be made to the Historic Polegreen Church Foundation, 6411 Heatherwood Drive, Mechanicsville, VA 23116.

Laurence Raymond “Ray” Gulick, Woodbridge, VA, March 11, 2022, Crew #704, Bombardier.

Ray was born at home in Philadelphia, PA. His family moved around in the New York area for his father's job, but they were back in Philly for his high school graduation from Frankford High. He attended Lehigh University, studying engineering, before he joined the Air Corps and completed bombardier training. In February 1944 Ray and the rest of the Warren Burt crew flew their plane across the Atlantic to Attlebridge, becoming one of the first crews on this “new” U.S. base. They flew their first and the base's first mission on March 22 and their last on July 21, 1944, for a total of 30 missions. Only one in four crews was able to reach this goal. Of his fellow crew members, three were wounded and one, who was a good friend of Ray's, was killed in combat on his last mission. This was William Julian, who had missed some of the crew's earlier missions and had to fly his make-up missions with another crew. Unfortunately this was the Harrington Crew, shot down on August 15, 1944, after the Warren Burt crew had returned to the States. *(My father, William Horney, was in this same situation. He was ill when they arrived in England and missed his crew's first missions, The rest of the crew finished their 30 missions and went home without him. He said he didn't want to fly with a crew that he didn't know and trust to get him “home” safely, but he had no choice in the matter. MC)* In later years, Ray shared his wartime experiences with many youth and historical groups, always saying that “war was a nightmare.” Ray Gulick went on to become a bombardier instructor back in the States and remained in the service of the US Air Force Reserves from 1948 until 1968. He retired with the rank of major after flying 800 hours in more than 40 different aircraft. In his civilian career Ray was also able to combine his love of photography and travel with flying as he became a photographer with Aero Services Corp. In the 1950s he flew in many converted WWII planes, mapping airstrip expansion to accommodate commercial jets.

(cont'd.)

TAPS



(cont'd.)

He spent a year in Saudi Arabia in a B-17 doing aerial mapping. This same plane became part of a warbird tour that he and his daughter flew in many years later! He continued his career working with the FAA and then transferring to the Navy as a micro-publishing specialist. He moved his family to Virginia in 1972 and worked for the Government Printing Office until retiring in 1994. Ray was a volunteer guide at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. He and his wife had researched their family histories, and he volunteered as a genealogical history worker for his LDS church. He also was active in the Virginia chapter of the 8th AFHS. He loved working on cars and was an avid fitness expert. But flying shaped Ray Gulick's life, including how he met his wife, Betty. She was also a private pilot and they were introduced through mutual friends in the Philadelphia flying community. Betty died in 2004 after 42 years of marriage. For his 100th birthday, his family and friends dedicated a bench in his honor at the new Visitor Centre at Attlebridge. Ray is survived by a daughter and stepson and their families. Major Gulick was buried at Arlington Cemetery in Drexel, PA.. Memorials can be given to Shriners Hospital.

William C. "Bill" Osborne, Peoria, IL, January 26, 2021, Crew #551, Nose Gunner.

Bill Osborne was born in Peoria Heights, IL. Growing up there, he had a paper route to help out during the Depression. He remembered delivering to shacks where people were living. When it came time to collect the money, these people always had money for him, whereas some of the finer homes would put him off. He always loved baseball, especially the Chicago Cubs. He was a member of the original Peoria Heights team and played shortstop. Bill married Elsie, his high school sweetheart. Their honeymoon consisted of Elsie saying goodbye to him at the train station in St. Louis as he shipped out to England. At Attlebridge he was the nose gunner with the Seward Meinstma crew, completing 35 missions, flying "Slick Chick" and "The Flying Dutchman" between August 1944 and February 1945. After the war, he worked as a field engineer for Standard Oil/Amoco for 35 years, retiring in 1979. He and Elsie took their family on many camping trips. They were also world-wide travelers, visiting every continent except Antarctica! Bill was an avid gardener and grew beautiful flowers and lots of vegetables. He also loved to hunt and fish. Previously he lived in Dunlap, IL, but recently moved back to Peoria. He is survived by two sons and their families. He was buried at Swan Lake Memorial Gardens in Peoria.

James B. Pentz, San Diego, CA, July 12, 2014, Crew # 564, Navigator.

James Pence was from Staten Island, NY, when he volunteered for the Air Corps. At Attlebridge he served with the Charles Saxon crew as navigator. They completed 35 missions between October 1944 and April 1945. He was a resident of San Diego, CA, at the time of his death. There were no other details available about his life except for what is recorded on his headstone at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego. It says: "James B. Pentz, US AAC, WWII, Air Medal," and finally, "Today is a great day for navigating. "

Arthur L. "Art" Rivkin, La Jolla, CA, April 21, 2022, Crew #774, Co-pilot

Art was born and raised in Minneapolis, MN. He was attending the University of Minnesota when he left to join the Air Corps. At Attlebridge, Art was the co-pilot on the Walter Johnson crew, flying "Delores Jean" and "Hard Luck." They completed 25 missions before the end of hostilities. Art kept a wartime diary in which one of the entries records their firefight with one of the new German jets. Back home Art finished his degree at the U. of M. and met his wife, Jeannie Polinsky. In 1959 he moved his family to San Diego, CA, where he and his father in law purchased the Coca Cola Bottling Co. of San Diego. This began a series of business ventures, real estate ownership, radio broadcasting and aviation storage. He was a founding member of the Greater San Diego Sports Association. In 1990 he was involved in a 15 person partnership that purchased the San Diego Padres. Some of Art's earliest passions were involved with sports. He recalled being part of the "knothole gang" as a kid, peering through fences to watch the minor league Minneapolis Millers play baseball. He had boxed in college and refereed fights at Camp Pendleton after he moved to San Diego. This led him to see Ken Norton fight when Norton was in the Marines. Art encouraged him to turn pro, ending up co-managing his career, including when Norton beat Mohammed Ali in 1973 in San Diego. Art was also an avid golfer, tennis player and salt water fisherman. He was a member of the San Diego Country Club and the San Diego Yacht club. He and Jeannie traveled the world and divided their time between their homes in La Jolla and Rancho Mirage. Both were involved in variety of charitable institutions, many of them aimed at helping children. The Polinsky Center, named after Jeannie's parents, is a temporary shelter for abused children in San Diego. One of their three children died before him. Jeannie, their two sons and their families survive him.

(cont'd.)

TAPS



Houston W. Smith, Sr., Martinsville, VA, May 19, 2022, Crew #594, Waist Gunner.

Houston was born in Rockbridge County, VA, and grew up in Staunton. He was working at the Norfolk Navy Shipyard when the bombing of Pearl Harbor occurred. He changed course, joined the Air Corps and was trained as a gunner. He served with the Carl Falk crew at Attlebridge, arriving near the end of the war and flying 4 missions in April 1945. Their missions were flown in "Beta Duck," which they then ended up flying back to the States in June. Houston saw her a few months later at an airfield in Amarillo, TX, being put in storage. Back in civilian life, Houston went to Virginia Polytechnic Institute (now Virginia Tech) for a degree in mechanical engineering. He went on to work for Dupont for 34 years. Houston was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. At the time of his death he was living at a hospice care facility in High Point, NC. Janet, his wife of 56 years, died before him. He is survived by a daughter and son and their families. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park in Martinsville, VA. Memorial gifts are requested to Virginia Tech for the new Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Building.

Leonard H. "Len" Smith, Scotts Valley, CA, January 24, 2014, Crew #612, Bombardier, POW.

Len Smith was born in Bloomington, Indiana. He was attending Indiana University there when he joined the Air Corps. He was a member of the William Terry crew, and like the Warren Burt crew was one of the original crews to arrive at Attlebridge and fly the first mission for the bomb group. Unlike the Burt crew, their plane, "Terry and the Pirates," was shot down over Berlin on that mission. Len Smith, the bombardier, was trapped in the nose turret but was freed and pulled out by the navigator, Lou Loevsky. Along with the co-pilot and radio operator, they spent the next 13 months as POWs in Germany. Len stayed in the service until 1950 and continued his education to become a teacher. He taught in Indiana, Arizona and then finally settled in San Jose, CA, in 1963. After retirement Len did home remodeling and repairs. He was a great chess player and chess teacher. Len was a man of a strong Christian faith, and he traveled on many mission trips to Mexico and Alaska. He was predeceased by his first wife, Mattie, and a daughter. His second wife, Joyce, who he was married to for 42 years, survives him, along with two sons, a daughter and their families. Len was buried at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

Donald J. "Don" Vanderwall, Mercer Island, WA, February 11, 2014, Crew #551, Co-pilot.

Don was born and grew up in Muskegon, Michigan. He graduated from Muskegon High School. At Attlebridge he was co-pilot on the Seward Meinstma crew. They flew 35 missions, all of them with targets in Germany. Back home he continued his education at Michigan State University, graduating in 1950 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He and his wife, Margaret, then moved to King County, WA, with the past 46 years there on Mercer Island. For 43 years he worked for Boeing Co. as an aeronautical engineer, retiring in 1991. He enjoyed fishing, skiing, dancing, gardening, swimming and snorkeling. He was a member of Mercer Island Covenant Church. Margaret died before him. He is survived by two sons and two daughters and their families. He was buried at Sunset Hills Memorial Park in Bellevue, WA.



Military Women's Memorial

For those going early to the 8th AFHS meeting in Washington, D.C., the Military Women's Memorial will commemorate the 25th anniversary of its opening with a series of special events October 14-16.

The newly renovated memorial recognizes the estimated 3 million women who have served in our nation's military. It is located at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

For details as events are announced, see womensmemorial.org.



48th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA

October 19-23, 2022

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

STOP!

◇ RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM FIRST!

The reunion hotel has a liberal cancellation policy—in the event you are unable to attend the reunion, you will be able to cancel your reservation without penalty within 48 hours of your scheduled check-in time. However, if you wait until the last minute to book your room reservation, you may not receive the reunion rate or rooms may no longer be available at the reunion hotel.

Canceling your hotel reservation does NOT cancel your reunion activities.

◇ COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out the registration form completely.

- ⇒ Fill out your name as you wish it to be on your name tag—and for up to 3 guests registering with you. The principle attendee MUST be a current member of the Society to register for the reunion. You may JOIN and/or RENEW directly on the registration form. If you are a veteran, and/or affiliated with a bomb or fighter group, please indicate which group.
- ⇒ ALL meals are priced separately. Breakfast/Brunch Buffet will be served beginning on Thursday, October 20, thru Sunday, October 23. Be sure and select your choice of entrée if you plan on attending the Saturday evening gala.
- ⇒ There are four [4] tour options available during the reunion. Please read the information [here in this issue] on each tour and then make your selection on the form.

◇ MAIL IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Once you have completed your registration form, please total up the amount owed and include a check, money order, or complete the credit card information on the form, payable to the **8th AFHS** and mail to:

**8th AFHS
68 Kimberlys Way
Jasper, GA 30143-4769**

Or you may **SCAN** your registration form if paying by credit card
[a 3% convenience fee will be added]

and then

**EMAIL to:
ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org**

ALL registration forms **MUST** be received by **September 16, 2022** in order to guarantee your place.
If you have any questions or problems in completing your registration, please contact:

**Debra Kujawa
Managing Director
8th AFHS
912-748-8884**

ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org

ALL reunion information and forms are available on our website: 8thAFHS.org



48th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA
October 19-23, 2022

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

(800) 393-3680

or **ONLINE** registration on our website: 8thafhs.org

(Reference '8th AFHS' for group rate)

Location

The Crystal Gateway Marriott is located at 1700 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA, 22202, and provides the perfect home base for your visit to the Washington, D.C. area. Ideally located in Arlington, VA, the hotel is near Reagan National Airport (DCA) & Washington, D.C. The exciting new National Landing development is close by as are Pentagon City, downtown Washington D.C., and Old Town Alexandria. All are easily accessible via the nearby Crystal City Metro. Stylishly refreshed hotel accommodations showcase deluxe bedding, Smart TVs, walk-in showers and city views. Challenge yourself to a workout in the expansive fitness center before dining at *15th & Eads*, the sophisticated American restaurant. You will be dazzled by the comprehensively transformed Arlington Ballroom, which can seat up to 2,100 guests. This hotel has it all.

Shuttle Service

For those of you flying into the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, there is complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport to the hotel. To use the shuttle, go to the lower level, baggage claim. At this time the shuttle will pick up at door 4 and/or 7. Times are every 30 minutes at the quarter hour past and 15 minutes until the hour. The shuttle runs from 5am to midnight, daily. You do NOT need to call and/or reserve the shuttle.

If You Drive

Self parking is \$39 per day in the underground garage, valet parking is \$45 per day.

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Group Name: *8th Air Force Historical Society*

Reunion Dates: October 19-23, 2022

Rate: \$198+14.25% Rates are offered 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion based on availability.

Cut off Date: 9/28/2022

Cancellation Policy: All reservations have a 48 hour cancellation policy, or attendee will be charged one night room rate plus tax.

WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

ScotAround: (888) 441-7575 or ScotAround.com
Reserve chair rentals early!

HOSPITALITY SUITES

HOSPITALITY SUITES will be offered to groups on a first come, first reserved basis.

The number of suites is limited, so we ask that you reserve your suite as soon as possible. Suites are located throughout the hotel, but we will post location information at the registration desk as to where each group is located!

PLEASE contact ME ASAP to reserve your suite!

Call or email ASAP:

Debra Kujawa

Managing Director

912-748-8884

ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org



REUNION SCHEDULE

48th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA
October 19-23, 2022

Wednesday, October 19

1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
6:00pm — 7:00pm	Welcome Reception, followed by dinner on your own
7:00pm — 9:00pm	8th AFHS Board Meeting
7:00pm — until	Hospitality Suites remain open throughout reunion

Thursday, October 20

7:45am — 8:45am	Breakfast/Brunch Buffet
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration open
9:00am — 12:00pm	<i>Steven F Udvar-Hazy Center Tour</i>
1:30pm — 4:30pm	<i>Arlington Cemetery & Memorials Tour</i>
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Buffet dinner and program: <i>“Preserving a Legacy, the Footsteps of Bud Owens”</i>

Friday, October 21

7:45am — 8:45am	Breakfast/Brunch Buffet
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration TBD*
9:30am — 11:00am	Group Meetings
12:30pm — 4:30pm	<i>Washington Mall, Memorials, & Monuments Tour</i>
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Rendezvous Dinners

Saturday, October 22

7:45am — 8:45am	Breakfast/Brunch Buffet
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration TBD*
8:45am — 10:15am	General Membership Meeting
12:00pm — 4:00pm	8th AFHS Board Meeting
11:00am — 3:30pm	<i>Exploring Old Town Arlington, VA Tour</i>
1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration TBD*
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 10:00pm	Gala Dinner and Program

Sunday, October 23

7:30am — 8:30am	Breakfast/Brunch Buffet
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**** TBD Registration may be closed during the time scheduled for certain tours.
Please pick up registration packets at your earliest convenience.***

***It is important that you be in the bus boarding area
at least ten [10] minutes prior to the scheduled departure times.
All tours require a minimum of 45 participants, unless otherwise stated.
Driver and Staff gratuities ARE included in the tour prices.**



REGISTRATION FORM

48th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA
October 19-23, 2022

REGISTRATION CUT-OFF DATE IS September 16, 2022 (NO refunds on cancellations past this date)	Price p/p	# of People	TOTAL
DUES: The principal attendee <i>MUST</i> be a CURRENT member of the 8th AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are NOT CURRENT, or a member, please pay your yearly dues here:	\$ 40	#	\$
REGISTRATION FEE (non-refundable): EVERY attendee MUST pay registration fee	\$ 45	#	\$
BREAKFAST/BRUNCH BUFFET served 7:45am-8:45am, Thursday-Sunday (Price is \$40 per person per day)			
Thursday: #_____ Friday: #_____ Saturday: #_____ Sunday: #_____	\$ 40	#	\$
<u>DINNERS</u>			
Thursday, Oct 20: Dinner Buffet	\$ 57	#	\$
Friday, Oct 21: Rendezvous Dinners—Roasted Free-Range Chicken & all the trimmings!	\$ 58	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 22: GALA Banquet (Please select one entrée per person)			
Grilled Marinated Flank Steak (beef)	\$ 58	#	\$
Pan Seared Herb Crusted Salmon	\$ 58	#	\$
Vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, etc—Please indicate type: Thurs____ Fri____ Sat____	\$ 58	#	\$
TOUR OPTIONS: ALL tours are LUNCH ON YOUR OWN each day			
Thursday, Oct 20: 9am-12pm Steven F Udvar-Hazy Center	\$ 38	#	\$
Thursday, Oct 20: 1:30pm-4:30pm Arlington Cemetery & Monuments	\$ 25	#	\$
Friday, Oct 21: 12:30pm-4:30pm Washington Mall & Memorials	\$ 38	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 22: 11:00am-3:30pm Historic Old Town Alexandria, VA	\$ 38	#	\$
Total amount payable to: 8th AFHS			\$

Please PRINT. If registering a veteran, please list their name, first. *MAXIMUM of FOUR [4] persons per registration form, please!*

MEMBER NAME (for name tag): _____ WWII VETERAN? _____

BG/FG Affiliation (for Rendezvous Dinner seating) _____ Post WWII Veteran: _____ (Branch of Military): _____

SPOUSE or GUEST #1: _____

GUEST #2: _____ GUEST #3: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PH #: _____ EMAIL: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PH #: _____

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WILL BE USING A WHEELCHAIR ON TOURS: _____ NEED HYDRAULIC LIFT?: _____

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD —M/C; VISA; or AmEx (*a 3% convenience fee will be added*):

CARD #: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Your contact information will only be shared with attendees.

MAIL completed form with check or credit card info to: 8th AFHS ~ 68 Kimberlys Way ~ Jasper, GA 30143-4769

IF paying by credit card, you may SCAN and email form to: ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org

**Agenda and notice of the annual meeting of the
466th Bomb Group Association**

9:30 a.m. October 23, 2022,

Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, Arlington, Virginia

1. Minutes of the 2021 annual meeting.
2. Officer reports
 - a. President Steve Jordon
 - b. Vice President Tom Maiden
 - c. Secretary Beverly Baynes Tomb
 - d. Treasurer Bill Curtis
 - e. Attlebridge Notes newsletter co-editor Helen Jordon
 - f. Taps editor Martha Curtis
3. Old business
 - a. Attlebridge Notes: Discussion of printing and mailing expenses and quality; on-line distribution; 2022-23 deadlines.
 - b. Attlebridge Arsenal book storage and sales.
 - c. Annual donations: In 2022, \$500 to the 466th BG Visitors' Centre at Attlebridge.
 - d. Election of officers and board members.
4. New business
 - a. Succession and "next generation" planning.
 - b. The 2023 Reunion.
 - c. Other proposals.
5. Adjournment.



ON TV AGAIN!

*It's delightful to see and hear
466th BGA stalwart **Earl Wassom** talking
about his training and flying in WWII in this video by
local NBC TV station WNKY in Kentucky.
It's on Facebook, but sharing here
in case you missed it.*

<https://www.wnky.com/voices-of-honor-earl-wassom/>

Report from the Treasurer - JULY 2022

Account balance 01/01/2022 \$5,046.32

Expenditures \$2,333.87

Newsletter	1,769.19
Postage	32.20
Reunion	138.50
Book storage	360.00
Office	33.98

Income \$1,431.92

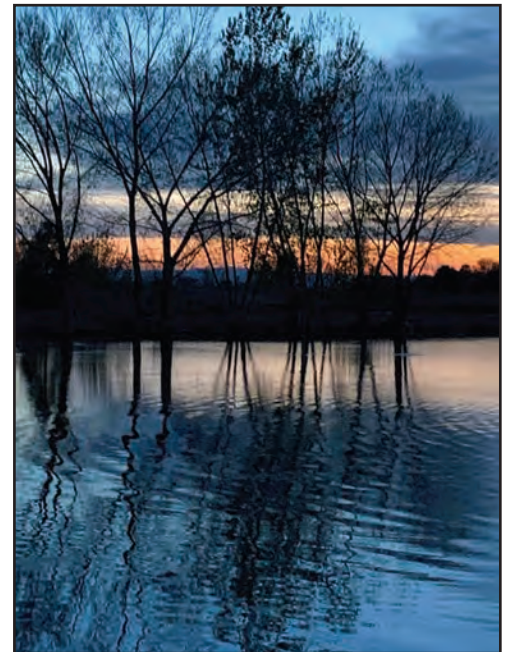
Non-dues,	
donations	1,285.00
Book Sales	146.92

Books Sold 2
Donors 12



Submitted by Bill Curtis

466th BGA Board Member **Nancy Maiden Shattuck** and her husband, Bob, moved recently from their home in Southern California to Idaho, but have somehow managed to find just as much beauty there as on the beaches of the Pacific! Great photo, Nancy!



Corrections from the January 2022 issue:
Nick Kuklish was tail gunner on the John "Jack" Dougherty crew. Bill Brooks was navigator on the Mac Dike crew. The crew names were transposed in captions on Pages 7 and 10.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
From 466th Bomb Group Association
Beverly Baynes Tomb
2122 Grayson Place
Falls Church, VA 22043

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Attlebridge Notes is printed solely for members of the 466th Bomb Group Association and associates thereof, for their information and entertainment. All information is amassed by Attlebridge Notes.

Washington, D.C., October 19-23, 2022
48th 8th AFHS Annual Reunion
Crystal City Marriott
Plan ahead!

Photo: Leland Jordan

For updates, or to join the 8th Air Force Historical Society, go to: <https://8thafhs.org/join.html>, or call (912) 748-8884 or send \$40 and your contact information to:
Debra D. Kujawa, Managing Director, 8th Air Force Historical Society, P.O. Box 60369, Savannah, GA 31420-0369

Donations to the 466th BGA are needed to print and mail the newsletter.
If you receive our newsletter a suggested donation of \$20/year would cover expenses.
The 466th BGA has no dues, but to **donate to the 466th BG Association:**
Make checks payable to: "The 466th BGA"

and mail to: Bill Curtis, Treasurer
515 West Ariel Ave.
Foley, AL 36535

To donate to the Visitors Centre project:

send check to: Lisa Savory Mansfield
72 Blithemeadow Drive
Sprowston Norwich Nr7 8pz
United Kingdom
minnie160178@gmail.com

Send Address corrections:

via mail to Beverly Baynes Tomb,
Secretary / 2122 Grayson Place,
Falls Church, VA 22043
or via email to:
secretary466thbga@gmail.com



*With crew photos,
names, facts, figures
all from Attlebridge Field
during WWII,*

\$60 each + \$15 Shipping

Send your check to:
Bill Curtis, Treasurer
515 West Ariel Ave.
Foley, AL 36535

