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398th BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION • 8th AIR FORCE • 1st AIR DIVISION • NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND

VOL. 31 NO. 4

FLAK NEWS

OCTOBER 2016

# THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO CECIL "TEX" MOORE, TAIL GUNNER, WOODSON CREW, 602<sup>ND</sup> SQ

We would like to thank Cecil's widow, Chrysta Moore, for graciously funding this entire edition of the Flak News in Cecil's memory.

*Several articles and photos submitted by Cecil's family are throughout this issue.*



**While attending the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA's 2002 Portland Oregon Reunion, Cecil "Tex" Moore (center), his granddaughter Alexis and grandson Eliot, toured the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum.**

*There was a recent news story regarding the B-17 pictured in the background. This B-17, painted in the 490<sup>th</sup> BG's colors, was on static display at the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum for years, however in 2015 it was sold to the Collings Foundation in Stow, Massachusetts. The Collings Foundation already operates fortress "Nine-O-Nine" and this new arrival will make it possible for their "Wings of Freedom Tour" to continuously fly one B-17 while the other undergoes maintenance.*

*The Foundation plans to have their new B-17 airworthy by 2017.*

# My Husband, Cecil "Tex" Moore

By Chrysta Moore

Thank you for the privilege and honor of sponsoring the October 2016 Edition of the Flak News in memory of my husband, Cecil Ray "Tex" Moore. He would have been very pleased, as his family is, by the combined effort and result of The Friends of the 398<sup>th</sup> and the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA's dedication of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum at Nuthampstead, England 28 May 2016 (his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday). Thank you all for your historical achievement; it is indeed very special.

Cecil was the Tail Gunner on Lt. Harold Woodson's crew of the 602<sup>nd</sup> Squadron. The crew named their B-17 "The WorryBird". He cherished the friendships and association with his crew with whom he completed his missions. He kept a combat diary during his time with the 398<sup>th</sup> BG in which he recorded his missions along with the words to his "Combat Song" (Pg.6).



**Woodson's Crew - 602<sup>nd</sup> SQ**  
**July 20, 1944, Nuthampstead**

**Back Row (L-R):**

Russell S. Spear, Jr., BT  
**Cecil R. "Tex" Moore, Tail**  
George A. Shoptaw, Eng/TT  
Thomas E. Dougherty, Waist  
Soloman Waslow, Radio Op

**Front Row (L-R):**

Harold W. Woodson, Pilot  
Richard C. Morauer, Co-Pilot  
Raymond M. Turner, Bombardier  
Peter E. Mullin, Navigator

Cecil was an active musician and dancer until he died. He played several musical instruments; had a dance band with his brother, Wesley, gave their earnings to their father for family support. He played the piano and/or the organ daily, his favorites were hymns, and the "Battle Song" to the tune of "Blues in the Night" (Pg.6) which always seemed to relax him.

He remained in the Army Air Corps, then to the United States Air Force in September 1947 for 32 years. He spent eight years in the 509<sup>th</sup> Atomic Bomb Group – later 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, Strategic Air Command at Carswell AFB, Fort Worth, Texas and Roswell Army Air Field – later Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico, as a Flight Engineer on B-29, B-50 and B-36 aircraft.

Many long flights and many TDYs [Temporary Duties] during that time were the norm. Later, assignments with the Special Activities Group, Washington, D.C.; some MAG [Military Assignment Group] assignments were enjoyed with his family; some not during the Korean Conflict and two one-year assignments to Viet Nam.

He loved the Military; his plan was to stay long enough to feel he would not have to "get another job". This he did with no regrets. Also, he said it was better than the cotton patch and cattle corrals he experienced while growing up in Central Texas. He was always quick to acknowledge, and be grateful for the "lessons of life– right is right and wrong is wrong" during the Depression. His favorite Bible Verses were: Proverbs Chapter 3, Verses 5 and 6: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not to thine own understanding". "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Cecil was a loving husband, family man, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather. He lived to see his five generations of Moore males. One of his greatest joys was spending quality time with his grandchildren. All four penned memories of times spent with him for this Flak News edition. He cherished Military Life and lifetime friendships made; he always looked forward to the 398<sup>th</sup> Reunions from the first one in 1947 in Rapid City to the last one he was able to attend. He enjoyed every day of this 40-year retirement traveling in our motorhome with our two dogs, doing whatever we felt like and when. He suffered many years from the effects of shrapnel in his left shoulder and Agent Orange exposure but never complained. He was the last member of this WWII Combat Crew to pass away (on 11 May 2014) at the age of 92; he would have celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 28 May 2014.

Cecil was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Leander Moore, Sr.; two sisters: Jewel Marie (Moore) Holmes and husband Raymond; Edna Earl (Moore) McMahon and husband Tom; four brothers all WWII Combat Veterans; Walter Wesley, Claudia Lee (Tommy) German POW), James Wallace (KIA-SP), Leander Moore, Jr.; daughter-in-law, Betty (O'Quinn) Moore Jackson and one grandson, Michael David Moore.

Cecil was survived by his wife, Chrysta Pearl (Riley); one daughter, Cecilia Dianne (Moore) Murray and husband Patrick Lawrence; granddaughter, Alexis Siobhan Murray; grandson, Eliot Spencer Murray; one son, Ray Bernard and wife Millie; granddaughter, Lisa Ann (Moore) Trygar and husband Joseph Michael; great-grandson, Gerad Kyle Morris and wife Stormy Lee; great-great-granddaughter Palmer Lee; great-grandson Michael James Russell; great-granddaughter, Macie Elizabeth Russell; great-great-granddaughter, Addalyne Annabeth Donaldson; grandson, David Ray Moore; great-grandson, David Coy Moore and wife Shelby Kathleen; great-great-granddaughter Kaylie Briana Moore; great-great-grandsons: Landon Jensen and William Orion Moore, great-grandson Derek Colby Moore; great-granddaughter Demi Chea Moore, and one sister, Juanita Pearl (Moore) Collier and husband Allen; son-in-law, Elton Jackson; ex-wife, Shirley (Kronert) Russ, and many nieces, nephews and "Greats".

After 67 years of marriage, it was / is extremely difficult to say "Farewell"; however, God's Will and memories sustain.

## ***A Daughter's Poem***

***by Cecilia "Celia" Murray, daughter of Cecil "Tex" Moore***

*Dad*

*For your sacrifice,  
Valor and  
Courage  
for your crew  
and all in  
support  
for the people of  
this beautiful  
green country  
for the people back  
Home  
Eternally grateful  
and proud*

*As the sounds of these fields  
now returned to the  
peace of growing crops  
birds in song and chatter  
a tractor in the distance  
gentle breeze  
and the flow and furl of a  
flag left in remembrance*

*And today several flags raised and lowered  
their families gathered  
to honor the passing  
of warriors aged  
young men who gave of  
themselves  
Full measure against  
Evil*

*I listen for some echo  
of the deep rumbling of  
many engines  
four times  
how many  
lined up to  
fill the sky*

*Standing on the same surface  
Walked, driven, flown  
Yet no rumble  
chest pounding  
cacophony of mission*

*Just birdsong  
daily living  
and peace  
restored  
As was their hope to do.*

*Thank you, Dad  
Eternally grateful  
and proud.*



**This photo entitled "The Three C's" was Cecil's favorite picture of his little Cecilia. It was taken in 1951 while Cecil was stationed in Roswell, New Mexico. Left to right: Chrysta, Cecilia and Cecil**



**The Three C's at Christmas circa 1988  
Left to right: Chrysta, Cecilia and Cecil  
Cecilia is now known as "Celia"**

# Memories of our Grandfather

By

Alexis Murray and Eliot Murray

Recently, my sister and I were asked by our grandmother; Chrysta Moore, to think of some memories of our grandfather and record them for the future. We decided to write ours together, as many of our memories with him were at times communal, other times on our own. Here are those reflections of our grandfather – *Cecil Moore*—and our time with him on the planet earth.

\* \* \* \* \*



Cecil and Chrysta with grandkids Eliot and Alexis in 1988

**Eliot:** Many of my fondest memories of my grandfather are not the tent-pole moments of holidays, birthdays and other marquee milestones. Instead, I think first of the quiet moments in between these, some of them seemingly mundane, many of them just another day. But during these unassuming interstitial chunks of time, there were opportunities to listen and learn, if you could catch them.

**Alexis:** While I believe there was some value to the quiet moments with my grandfather, my fondest memories extended a bit beyond that into the loud laughing un-foreboding joy he created with his family and friends when he wanted to and that with which you knew how much he loved. From playing with the band at our family reunions to traveling in his RV's with grandmother, to taking you to his favorite restaurant and requesting his song on the jukebox, he wanted you to experience the joy of these things just as he did.

**Eliot:** My sister and I were always interested in the lives of our grandparents. Both of them were, and are, gregarious, well-practiced tellers of story - - so if you could be patient and listen, you were bound to catch some gems from their long, multifaceted stories. This verbal history cobbled together a timeline of their lives in my mind - - For my grandfather, it began with playing music, joining the war, marrying my grandmother, having my mom, living in far off places, coming home and traveling continuously. It's like a big quilt, if I had to describe it.

**Alexis:** The stories were, and are, endless.

**Eliot:** He was, for better or worse, not the most forthcoming about his time during the war. Understandable, like so many veterans and people who've been put through trauma can be. I had learned this through asking point blank questions when I was younger, to mixed success. But as I grew older, he started to open up a bit. Maybe it was him relaxing on the subject after the benefit of time having passed since his experiences, or maybe he thought my sister and I were maturing enough to be able to understand. Or maybe there was no conscious effort and he just felt like talking.

**Alexis:** I have a different take on this and learned early if I wanted to hear the best stories, I had to eavesdrop ☺. Grandfather would, I believe, wanted to preserve us from what was most definitely the most horrific experience any human being could ever go through. So he wouldn't give us the full story, but what he would do is sit with some of his bombardier groupmates and they would tell/reminisce on all sorts of stories... Maybe not all appropriate for writing down, but what I took away the most from those stories was that the true and fast friendships were what held together my grandfather in many of his years of service, as well as the love of his family.

**Eliot:** We used to tag along for walks along Old Pearsall Road with their dogs, Bo-Dog and Tinker Bell (and subsequent dogs Bo-J and Mister Bosley) – a ten minute or so drive from his and our grandmother's home in Pleasanton, Texas. Just a dusty stretch of rural highway connecting different counties and towns; it was his regular haunt for walking them (as Bo-Dog got up in years and his sight started to go, Tinker Bell would be his guide through the world). Nobody around, a long row of hedges and trees, the odd mattress or fridge leaning against cattle fencing, maybe a deer sighting in the evening if we were lucky.

**Alexis:** These are the moments we are grateful for getting to spend with Grandfather. A chance when we got to see a different side to him. I am reminded of another experience he included us in that was of great fun - - Flea Markets!! The unending treasure hunt where he would give us two or three items to zero in on in the acres of stands we would visit and when we found exactly the right item, it was better than gold.

**Eliot:** Accompanying him on these walks provided an opportunity to visit and catch up, and an opportunity for him to ask well-intentioned/prying questions about school, friends, my burgeoning love life... in which he took great satisfaction. That might spur him off on a story about losing an engine in his B-17 while flying a mission over Europe. Or watching another plane full of young friends get shot down and fall from the sky, knowing full well it could have been him just feet away. Epic and tragic, on a scale I had never experienced and continue to ponder on.

It was sobering to hear; I shake my head trying to imagine being that age and trying to understand the hell that was going on around you. In hindsight, I feel fortunate to have been around this campfire of his, receiving the verbal history of the way things happened. It's the closest thing we have to time traveling - - when someone who has experienced so much is willing to share their interpretation of life and the way they lived it. As I get older, it's less about the story and more about the act of sharing I recall.

Now that he has passed on and knowing there will never be another walk with him and the dogs along the edge of Old Pearsall Road, it makes me sad to think about it. But I also feel fortunate my sister and I had these opportunities to hear what he had to share, and that he wanted to share with us at all.

*Continued on Page 5*

## Memories of our Grandfather

Continued from page 4

**Alexis:** While there may not be a physical walk for us to take again, the walk continues for us with what he shared. I am so grateful that Cecil Moore was my grandfather because he (along with my grandmother and my parents) taught me the importance of family and how the character of who you are is many times deemed by how you treat others - - starting with our four legged friends. I hear his voice all the time and find some of the favorite parts of who I have become is because of him.

**Eliot:** While Grandfather is no longer with us, we are incredibly fortunate we still have our grandmother with us - - *Chrysta Moore* - - who continues to share with us the evolving story of her life, and to share her memories of our grandfather and their lives together. Although forthright questions have their place, sometimes all you have to do is shut up and you'll hear more than you ever expected.

**Alexis:** Especially if you eavesdrop on the fireside conversations of adults who don't realize you are listening. ☺



Chrysta Moore with grandchildren Eliot and Alexis Murray enjoying the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA's 2015 Reunion in New Orleans

\* \* \* \* \*

## *My Memories of Pee Paw*

By

Lisa Moore Trygar, granddaughter



Cecil with his catch of the day... you should have seen the one that got away!

I caught a catfish. Pee Paw told me not to put it in the boat. I did anyway and the fish hooked him in the foot; we both had our feet in the water to soak... I have more of these kind of stories and could go on and on.

As much time as we spent with Pee Paw, he never talked about being in a war. I don't recall my parents talking about it either; I don't know why it was that way.

Grandmother has brought alive in me what a hero my Pee Paw was to our Country. I always loved him as my Pee Paw and I Love, Honor and Respect him even more for what he and his four brothers (my Uncles: Wesley a Battlefield Medic in Europe, Tommy with General Patton and a POW, James in B-24 Bombers lost in the South Pacific and Pete in the Navy in the South Pacific) did for our Country.

To my Pee Paw, my Hero; I love you and miss you. Your Granddaughter, Lisa.

I have so many memories of my Pee Paw, Cecil Ray Moore. Most of them are from summers we used to spend at the beach house in Sea Isle, near Galveston, Texas.

My grandmother was still working so my Pee Paw would have my brother David, our friends Linda, Hondo and I, all to himself until Grandmother arrived on the weekend. I'm sure he was stressed out a lot! I can't remember how many times I asked him *when* we were going fishing. He always kept us entertained or, we kept him entertained messing thing up!

One of the funniest memories I have is one night we were driving on the beach; Pee Paw stopped the truck and let my brother and his friend out, then we took off and left them. When we went back to get them, they were "running for dear life" yelling "there's an alligator on the beach"! Someone had made an alligator out of sand with marble eyes; it really did look alive. I still laugh about it.

One day when we were taking the boat out, I fell in the canal when we were launching the boat. I thought a shark was going to get me so I climbed the wall and cut my foot on the shells. While we were fishing Pee Paw told me to put my foot in the water because salt water is good for wounds. A little while later



Lisa with her Pee Paw Cecil Circa 1975

# “Building Character”

## Memories of My Peepaw, Cecil “Tex” Moore

By  
David Moore, Grandson

When I was a young boy, I spent several summers with my Peepaw (and grandmother too!). During that time while I was enjoying the fishing in Galveston Bay, staying in an awesome beach house on Galveston Island, frying and eating the haul of fish we caught, making and eating Big Red ice cream floats, visiting family and friends, learning how to work on cars (fixing things I broke ©), building some “character” digging up mesquite trees in the hot Texas sun with an axe hoe (Peepaw called it the “character builder”), and soaking up all the other memory building experiences, I never had a clue the amount of bravery my Peepaw had inside him. It wasn’t until I was older that I fully understood, if it is possible for someone to fully understand, what it meant to climb into a metal tube with 2 wings and 4 engines, fly over a foreign country that was very far from home, with a vicious enemy trying to knock you out of the sky, and drop bombs so the world could be free from the tyranny that took over Europe. I honor and respect him, and all the other brave men who sacrificed so much for the United States of America and the world. Rest in peace Peepaw!



**Four Proud  
Grandkids with Their  
Grandmother**

L to R:

Alexis Murray  
Eliot Murray  
Chrysta Moore  
Lisa Moore Trygar  
David Moore

*This photo was taken two years ago at the Duxford Air Museum when the family visited England for the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA’s 2014 Biennial “Back to England Tour”.*



## Cecil’s “BATTLE SONG”

Sung to the tune of “BLUES IN THE NIGHT”



Re-Arranged By T/Sgt’s E.W. White & F.D. McCann - Cecil kept these lyrics in his WWII Combat Diary

*From Berlin to Bordeaux  
From Liepzig to St. Lo  
Wherever the Heavies go  
I’ve seen me some big flak  
And heard me some big noise  
But there is one thing I know  
A fighter with eight guns  
Is a worrysome thing that  
Leads me to sing  
The Blues In The Night*

*Hear the flak a-poppin’  
See the Fort’s a -droppin’  
A whooee  
See those ME’s divin’  
Hear those 50’s jivin’  
The veterans done told me a  
whooee  
to whooee  
Oh gosh how that flak  
Keeps echoing back  
The Blues In The Night*

*In the U.S. they tell us  
That they’re jealous  
They can’t come over too  
But I know they’re jokin’  
When I see those Lib’s a-smokin’  
And fallin’ out of the blue  
While back home they’re sackin’  
With nary a thing to lead them to  
sing  
The Blues In The Night*

*Here it’s keep those turrets turnin’  
Keep those engines churnin’ A whooee  
Get those Fort’s in closer  
Or you’ll have fighters all over  
Then blooey to blooey  
The veterans done told me to whooee  
to whooee  
They’re a worrysome thing that  
Leads you to sing The Blues In The Night  
The vet’s were right they’re  
Blues In The Night*

# The 2016 Norfolk Reunion Recap

By Mellisa Ledlow

The 398<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Association celebrated its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion August 10-13, 2016 in Norfolk, Virginia. Many wonderful activities and tours were planned by the Reunion Chair, Ken Howard and his family and helped create another outstanding gathering. Norfolk, Virginia is an amazing mix of old and new. On one hand, it is the home of the earliest British settlements in North America and on the other hand, the most modern, high-tech military force in the world is flourishing in the very same place. It's ironic that attendees had to drive by the thoroughly modern, state-of-the-art Naval Station Norfolk and the Atlantic Fleet to get to Colonial Williamsburg!

Reunion activities began Wednesday night on The Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise in the heart of downtown Norfolk. The cruise left Town Point Park and proceeded down the Elizabeth River. The cruise featured historical sites ranging from colonial times when Captain John Smith arrived to explore the area to a spectacular skyline view of the current Norfolk Naval Base/Atlantic Fleet. The group was also able to see Old Fort Norfolk built in 1794 under orders from George Washington, the site of the first battle between two ironclad vessels, the Monitor and the Merrimac (CSS Virginia), and Hampton Roads Harbor—the largest port complex in the United States. An amazing abundance of history in a two-hour cruise! There was also a lovely dinner buffet, live music and wonderful views from inside the cruise ship and on the outdoor upper deck.

On Thursday morning, the 398<sup>th</sup> group headed to downtown Norfolk to visit the Nauticus/Battleship Wisconsin. The Nauticus is a maritime-themed science center and museum that uses Norfolk's natural harbor setting to showcase and educate visitors about maritime commerce and the world's largest Navy. The Battleship Wisconsin is berthed at Nauticus and is open for self-guided tours. The Wisconsin, an Iowa-class battleship, is one of the largest and last battleships built by the US Navy. She holds the distinction of having served in WWII, the Korean War and Operation Desert Storm. The Wisconsin is a highly decorated ship due to her contributions during war-time.



**Ray Richman found that the observation window in the Nauticus Maritime Museum was the perfect spot to snap a photo of the Battleship Wisconsin.**

The next stop on Thursday was a visit to the Naval Station Norfolk (NSN). In the early 1900's, high-ranking US Naval officers determined that the property was ideal for a naval base. The purchase of the original 474 acres began the development of the Naval Station Norfolk and also includes a Naval Air Station, a Submarine Station and several training stations and a hospital. The entire complex currently covers over 4,300 acres. Tremendous expansion and development occurred in the 1940's as the country prepared for and eventually entered WWII.

Navy personnel met the 398<sup>th</sup> tour bus at the base entrance and escorted the group to the Officer's Club for lunch. The guided tour next drove by seven miles of piers and aircraft hangers where a variety of ships were docked, including the aircraft carriers USS George H W Bush and USS Abraham Lincoln. Along with other frigates, cruisers and destroyers, the USS Cole was also docked at Naval Station Norfolk and the tour was honored to pass by the station's Memorial to those lost in the USS Cole terrorist attack.

Air Operations at NSN are extensive and critical as it is the hub for Navy logistics going to the European and Central Command theaters of operations, and the Caribbean. Cargo planes, passenger planes, helicopters and all varieties of aircraft could be seen in action for readiness and training. Even from the seat of a tour bus, it is apparent that Naval Station Norfolk is diligent and impressive in its mission to be prepared to protect the United States.

Many Reunion attendees had arrived in Norfolk by Thursday so that evening's Welcome Banquet was a great time to visit and enjoy the company of familiar old friends. And new friends! What a great surprise that a 398<sup>th</sup> veteran made his first appearance at a Reunion! Nace Wiley, a Ball Turret Mechanic from the 601<sup>st</sup> Squadron Armament Section came to the Memory Room and attended the Welcome Banquet along with his nephew. President Marilyn Gibb-Rice presented Nace with the traditional 398<sup>th</sup> BG Veterans Medal. It was such an honor to have Nace join us—especially since he was the oldest vet in the room—99 years, 7 months and 12 days old! We can't wait to see him next year! An additional highlight of the evening was a Q&A session with the nine veterans in attendance (and it also created a great photo op!).

The Welcome Banquet also featured remarks from Maria Hunter, daughter of Col. Frank Hunter, 398<sup>th</sup> BG Commander. Maria was almost 10 years old when her father was shot down during a mission to Neuss, Germany in January 1945. Through the years, she has collected many stories from the men who were privileged to serve under her father. Maria has often heard that Col. Hunter was "very strict and that his men had to do things the right way," but all the men loved him. As she said, that was very unusual—to hold in such high regard, someone that also had high expectations. His men never wanted to disappoint Col. Hunter.

Maria's last memory of her father was when he left the hotel room her family shared in Rapid City, South Dakota to be driven to the nearby airbase. Later that morning, while in her schoolyard, she and the other children looked up and saw the squadrons of B-17's begin their journey to the European front.

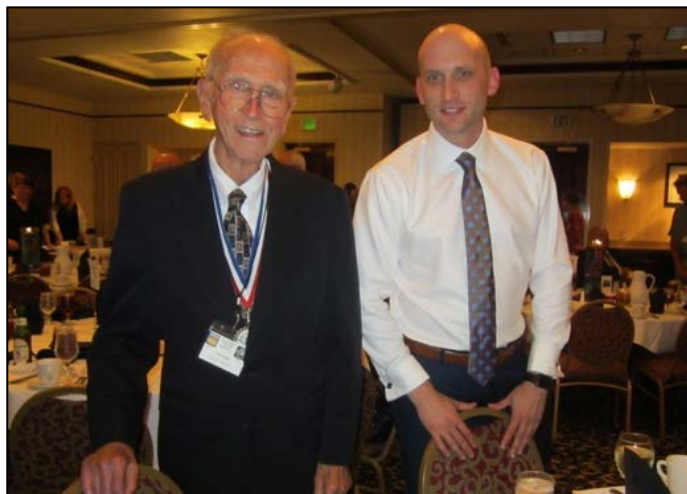
...Continued on page 10

# CAUGHT ON CAMERA AT OUR NORFOLK REUNION!

Reunion photos shown on this page and throughout this issue were contributed by  
 Melissa Ledlow, Marilyn Gibb-Rice, Geoff Rice & Lee Anne Bradley



Above: **Linda Davis, Teedy Blackwell and Rozanne Joseph.** Linda looked great in her dad's (Joe Joseph, Engineer 603rd SQ) WWII uniform. Joe and Rozanne ran our PX several years ago.



Above: **Lou Stoffer with his grandson Joey Stoffer**



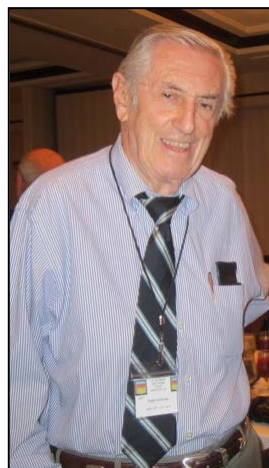
Above: **Wilma Martin, Charles Ormsby and Dick Martin.** Charlie and Dick flew on the same crew together, Lt. John Aniello's crew, 603<sup>rd</sup> SQ.



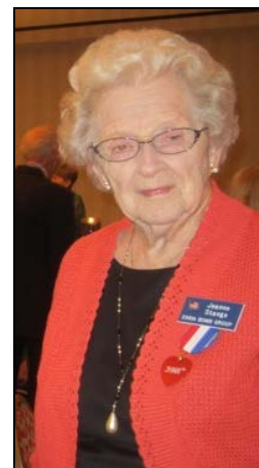
Above, clockwise from top left: **Connie Novek, Karen Neff Evola, Loretha Smith and Bobbi Mier**



Above: **Our incredible 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA Reunion Team, the Howards!** Brandy (left) and Beth with their dad Ken, our Reunion Coordinator. Thank you for another fantastic reunion!



**Ralph Ambrose**

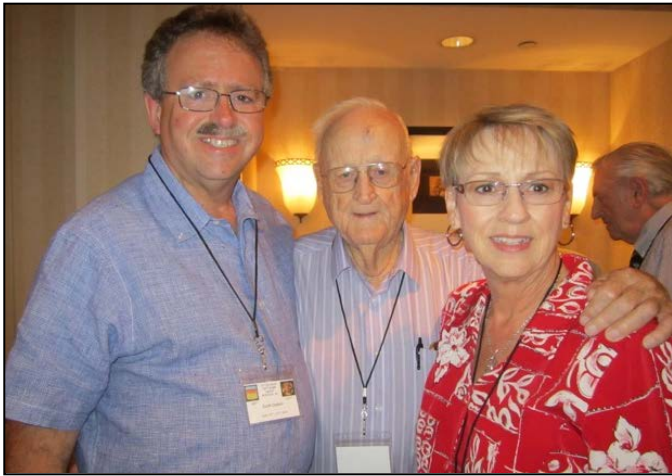


**Jeanne Stange**



# MORE CAUGHT ON CAMERA!

“SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.”



Top left: **Scott Dodson and Debbie Farnum with their dad Jack Dodson**

Above: **Lindhe and Martha Guarisco**  
Lindhe's dad was Lt. John B. Guarisco, Bombardier with the J.H. Davis Crew, 601<sup>st</sup> SQ.



Above: **Wilma Richman (Ray's wife) & Maria Hunter (Col. Hunter's daughter)**

Left, directly above: **Maria Hunter Mackie**  
Center above: **Lydia St. Louis and Mellisa Ledlow**  
Center bottom: **George LeDoux and Michael Haase**  
Below: **Ann Collins, Teedy Blackwell and Lee Bradley**

Below: **Liz McCann and Karen Clement**



See our "Reunions & Tours" page at [www.398th.org](http://www.398th.org) for additional photos!

## Norfolk Reunion – Recap! *Continued from Page 7*

Col. Hunter's Purple Heart, awarded posthumously, sits in a drawer in her home. She chooses not to display it as she says, "I understand the significance of it." Many thanks to Maria—it was a privilege to have her in attendance and to have her speak.

On a very hot, bright Friday morning, an interested 398<sup>th</sup> reunion group headed out to Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. The Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area is the interpretation of the colonial American city with dozens of restored or re-created buildings related to its colonial and American Revolutionary War history. Costumed employees work and dress as people did in the era. For much of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Williamsburg was the center of government for the Colony of Virginia and American forefathers George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry met and planned features for the new, independent government.

The 398<sup>th</sup> group was able to take a leisurely walking tour of the area, enjoy lunch and then head for historic Jamestown National Historic Site.

The Jamestown Settlement in the Colony of Virginia was the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. Settlers found themselves in Powhatan Indian territory and struggled at times with their relationship with the Native Americans. Starvation and disease were also major problems with many early settlers succumbing to one or the other. The Jamestown National Historic Site contains a museum that captures the significance of the three cultures, European, North American and African that were involved in laying the groundwork for American government and society. Most of the 398<sup>th</sup> group did a walking tour of the museum and the adjacent living history museum that interprets the early colony, as well as a visit to re-creations of the three ships that brought the first colonists from England in 1607. It was so interesting to learn and also imagine what our early settlers experienced.

The group re-energized back at the hotel with a well-attended Happy Hour! This gave another great opportunity to visit and hear more veterans' stories.

On the last day of the 2016 Reunion, a tour to the MacArthur Memorial was organized. The MacArthur Memorial is a museum and research center in downtown Norfolk dedicated to preserving and presenting the story of the life of General Douglas MacArthur. It also pays tribute to the millions of men and women who served with General MacArthur in WWI, WWII and the Korean War.

Just a short distance away, the group made a stop at the highly regarded Chrysler Art Museum. The Museum has thrived and grown mainly due to the generous personal donation from the automobile-magnate, Walter Chrysler, Jr. The Chrysler Museum has one of America's top collections of glass art and the 398<sup>th</sup> tourists were able to witness a glass blowing demo.

Many attendees then made their way in the last few hours of the Reunion to the Memory Room. Along with the PX, Jack's Books (a wealth of personal information about the 398<sup>th</sup> veterans), and copies of past issues of the Flak News, the room always has something new of interest. Geoff Rice brought photos and information about the status of the ever-growing Nuthampstead Airfield Museum in England. And Scott Welty displayed a few poster-sized WWII photos of some veterans.

The Memory Room is also a great gathering place for conversations between new and old friends.

Those warm relationships carried on into the Farewell Banquet Saturday night. Marilyn Gibb-Rice gave a much-deserved thank you to the Howard Family— Ken, Brandy and Beth —for organizing a great reunion. Jack Dodson, tail gunner with the Watkins' Crew, 601<sup>st</sup> Squadron, spoke of his receiving the French Medal of Honor at a 4<sup>th</sup> of July ceremony in Houston. Jack encouraged any veterans that may qualify to apply through the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society. Marilyn also presented Jack with his 398<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Medal. A special recognition was given to Ray Richman's family. Ray's grandson showed up with his own son and Ray's namesake, 3 week old, Raymond. Raymond was the youngest attendee at the 2016 Reunion!

Once again, a 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA Reunion slowly came to a close— there was a bit of dancing, but mostly conversations, hugs, photos and lots of "see ya next year!" It's always difficult to say good-bye, but everyone left looking forward to Salt Lake City, Utah next August. Til then.....

### January 2017 Flak News

**Widows**, please note that **now** is the time to make your donation in support of the January 2017 issue of Flak News. Last year you all gave \$1,280 for the 2016 January issue. That issue cost \$1,015.12, so we have \$264.88 remaining in our fund for the coming year.

Please make your check payable to: **398th BGMA**

Mail it to: Dawne Dougherty  
951 South 9th Street  
Harrisburg, OR 97446-9585

Many of you commented on the joy you received from honoring your husbands in this way. Your joy brings us all joy! ☺

### COMING UP IN THE JANUARY FLAK NEWS

#### A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO RUTHANNA DOERSTLER

Ruthanna has always done so much for the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA and, in recent years, the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum. Sadly she passed away March 20, 2016 and we all miss her very much. Our August reunion just wasn't the same without her big smile.

One of her last wishes was for her late husband Wayne's WWII memorabilia to be donated to the museum, which the museum gratefully accepted. In July we discovered that Ruthanna had one last surprise for us; she had very generously bequeathed \$34,000.00 to our organization! Ruthanna was a gem and we will never forget her.

Her good friend Dawne Dougherty wrote a beautiful tribute to her and it will appear in the January Flak News.

# BRIEF – things

Hello everyone, we hope you enjoy this special issue of the Flak News honoring Cecil Moore. If you would like to sponsor an issue of the Flak News and honor your favorite veteran, please notify 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA President Marilyn Gibb-Rice and Treasurer Mellisa Ledlow and they will tell you how to proceed with your request. We look forward to hearing from you; we know there are a lot of good stories out there!



Ray Richman's fourth generation 398er's!  
Great grandson David with great granddaughter Sarah  
holding 3 week old great grandson Raymond  
at the Norfolk Reunion.  
Little Raymond was our youngest reunion attendee ever!



Chrysta Moore looking lovely as ever at the  
398<sup>th</sup> BGMA Reunion Farewell Dinner in Norfolk, VA.  
A HUGE thank you to Chrysta for her generous \$1,000  
contribution to sponsor this issue of the Flak News!

# 398th Bomb Group PX

## ORDER FORM

(The Second Generation)

QTY	ITEM	UNIT	COST	TOTAL
<b>CLOTHING</b>				
<b>All shirts select size:</b>				
	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL			
<input type="checkbox"/>	T-Shirt, black, "398th BG Flying Fortress"		\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	T-Shirt, navy, with B-17 front view		\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	T-Shirt, white, with Triangle W on front, Clearing & Colder on back		\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	T-Shirt, white, with Group logo on front, Squadron logo on back		\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	select: <input type="checkbox"/> 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 601 <input type="checkbox"/> 602 <input type="checkbox"/> 603			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Men's Denim Shirt, long sleeve, 398th logo		\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Men's Golf Shirt, blue, embroidered Triangle W		\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SQUADRON CAPS</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Select: <input type="checkbox"/> 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 601 <input type="checkbox"/> 602 <input type="checkbox"/> 603		\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>LAPEL PINS</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Squadron pin		\$7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	select: <input type="checkbox"/> 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 601 <input type="checkbox"/> 602 <input type="checkbox"/> 603			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group pin Hell From Heaven		\$7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group pin blue with B-17		\$7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	8th Air Force pin		\$7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Silver B-17 pin		\$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cadet pin		\$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Force 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary pin – Rapid City		\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PATCHES</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Squadron Patch 3"		\$7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	select: <input type="checkbox"/> 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 601 <input type="checkbox"/> 602 <input type="checkbox"/> 603			
<input type="checkbox"/>	B-17 Jacket Patch, 4"x3"		\$7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	8th Air Force Patch, 3"		\$7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group Patch Hell From Heaven, 2½"x3"		\$7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BOOKS, CDs &amp; DVDs Media (includes postage)</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Fortresses Over Nuthampstead</i> (Bishop)		\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>398th History</i> (1946, photo copy)		\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mission Memories</i> (Ibeling)		\$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Return to Station 131- Memorial Dedication</i> June 2000 - DVD		\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PHOTOGRAPHS &amp; PRINTS</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sunset at Nuthampstead</i> , 8"x10"		\$7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bumper Sticker (red, white & black)		\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	50 Caliber Bullet Pen (Group Logo)		\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	B17 Scale Model (12.5 in x 9 in)		\$17.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Ballpoint Pen (398th imprint)		\$7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coaster ( <i>Clearing &amp; Colder</i> imprint)		\$6.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Earrings – clip (Group Logo)		\$11.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Earrings – pierced (Group Logo)		\$11.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Notecards – B-17 Flying Fortress (set of 10)		\$11.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FLAK NEWS Flash Drive</b> Aug '86 to July'12		\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost of All Items ordered \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Postage add \$7.00, \$9.00 if order over \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment in US funds to "398th Bomb Group PX" Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone: 317-867-1898 E-Mail: [carolynwidmann@aol.com](mailto:carolynwidmann@aol.com)

## 398th BOMB GROUP FLAK NEWS

FLAK NEWS  
C/O Lee A. Bradley  
14 Winding Way  
Andover, NJ 07821  
USA

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### Our Veteran Line-up in Norfolk Virginia

We had nine veterans attend our reunion in Norfolk this past August and we are very grateful that they continue to journey from all parts of the country to join us. As far as the rest of us second, third and fourth generation family and friends are concerned, our veterans, their spouses and widows too, are the *stars* of our events. We hope you all continue to join us for many years to come!

Pictured above are our honored nine. *Standing L to R:* Dick Martin - 603<sup>rd</sup> SQ, Jack Dodson - 601<sup>st</sup> SQ, Jim White - 600 SQ, Ray Richman - 600<sup>th</sup> SQ. *Seated L to R:* Charles Ormsby - 603<sup>rd</sup> SQ, Don "Red" Ibeling - 602<sup>nd</sup> SQ, Nace Wiley - 601<sup>st</sup> SQ, Lou Stoffer - 600<sup>th</sup> SQ and Keith Anderson - 600<sup>th</sup> SQ. *Note: This was 99 year old Nace Wiley's first 398<sup>th</sup> reunion ever!*