



# MENDLESHAM MEMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)



4TH SQUADRON



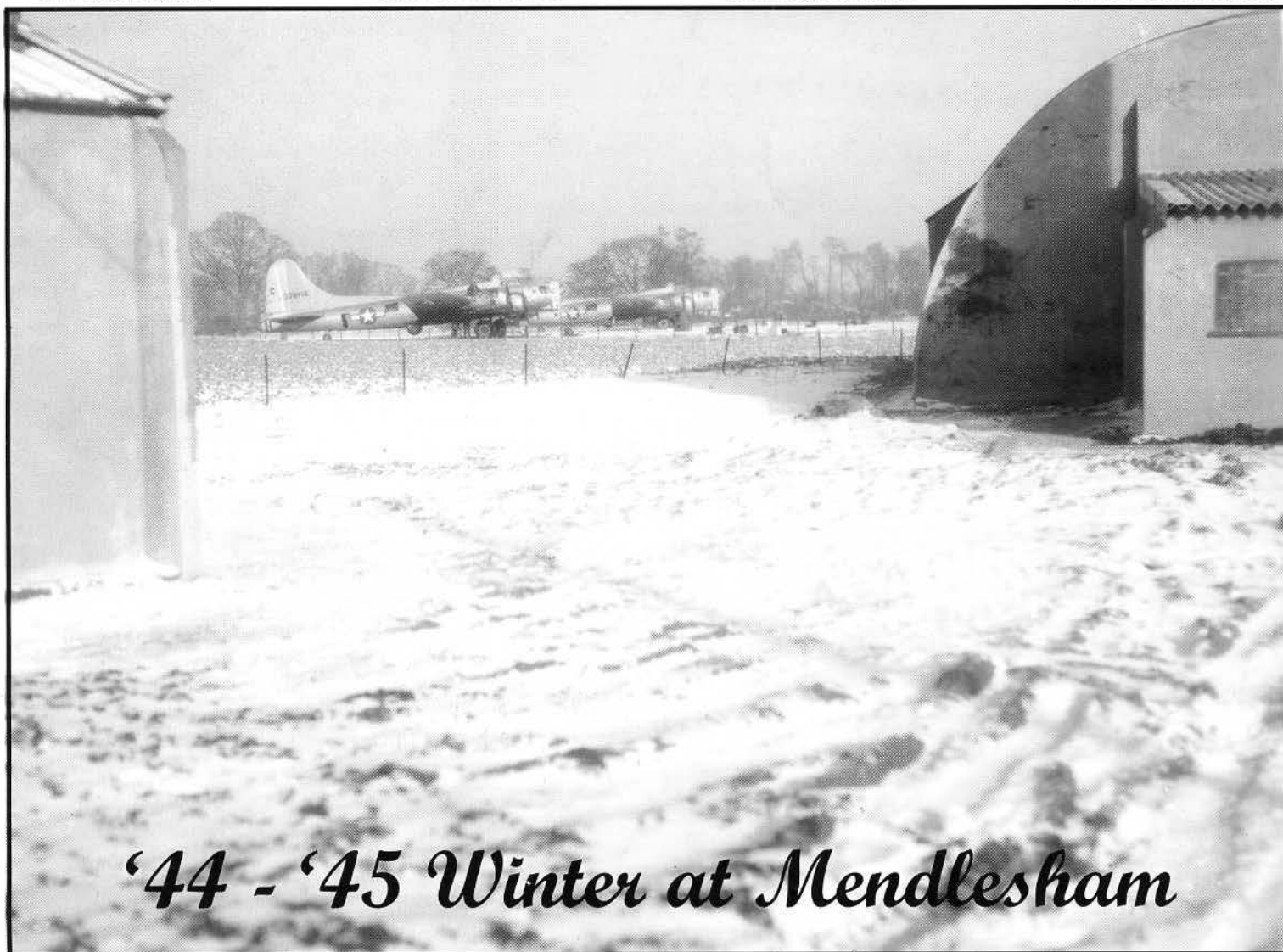
7TH SQUADRON



18TH SQUADRON



391ST SQUADRON

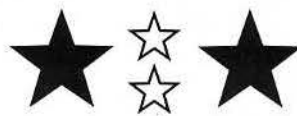


*'44 - '45 Winter at Mendlesham*



**SCHOLARSHIP ISSUE**

*Scholarship Application On Page 7*



## MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

Newsletter of

*The 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association, Inc.*

[www.excel-tech.com/34th/](http://www.excel-tech.com/34th/)

This newsletter is published four times a Year (March, June, September, December). All material for publication is welcome and should be sent to:

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## DEADLINE

All material and items for the June, 2004 issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before April 15, 2004. All copy will be going to the publisher on that date.

Jack Share, editor

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Other web sites of interest:

<http://members.tripod.com/VALORtoVICTORY>

[www.mighty8thmuseum.com](http://www.mighty8thmuseum.com)

[www.air-museum.org/b17.htm](http://www.air-museum.org/b17.htm)

[http://www.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th\\_Bomb](http://www.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th_Bomb)

[http://old.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th\\_Bomb/](http://old.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th_Bomb/)

## Share - a thought...

As usual, my New Year's resolution has been resolved - I not only didn't keep it, I have forgotten what it was, if ever there was one. Doesn't matter, I wouldn't have kept it anyway; never have.

The only thing I wish from the New Year is for my family and all my friends to be happy and blessed with good health and prosperity - and that includes all the members of the 34th Bomb Group Association and their families.

Thank you for your many holiday cards and thank you all for all your letters and information you have sent in to keep Mendlesham Memories alive and well. As I have said before, it is your newsletter and without your input it would be very uninteresting. So, keep those letters and material coming we all want to read your notes in the friends column and of your experiences before, during and after the war.

Since the letter from Henny Kwik of Holland appeared in the December issue of MM I have been receiving letters from several members who participated in those food drops. It is amazing that even those who completed their tours seem to have gotten more satisfaction out of that act of humanitarianism than flying their missions. I have determined that that is what Americans are all about - helping people rather than destroying them.

This being the scholarship edition, in it you'll find the application form for the 2004 scholarship awards. I would suggest that those whose offspring are eligible should clip it or copy it, have them fill it out and mail it in to Hal Province as soon as possible.

Also, look for the reunion committee's report. As I write this column I have not heard, definitely, where our next reunion will be held but have been assured it will be finalized before we publish this March issue of MM. We are all anxiously awaiting the word.

Have a warm, healthy winter and, along with the warmer weather in June, we'll have all the information needed for your participation in our 2004 reunion.

Jack



## From the Treasurer's Computer

Happy New Year to all survivors! You have made it to another year! What is your most memorable New Year's Eve? Can you recall it? Mine was New Year's Eve of January, 1945. We were bunked in a tarpaper shack in Valley Wales, having just arrived after a winter crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. Quite an introduction to the United Kingdom!

Senior moments are becoming more frequent of late - or have you found that out too. I signed nine associate members to the group at the San Antonio reunion and apparently got so busy writing letters of welcome to them and setting up a file on them that I neglected to notify Jack for entry in the December MM. My apologies to those nine new members and their sponsors. Your names will appear in this issue.

I hope that each of you are surviving the inclement weather that seems to be around the USA this year. Hold fast - Spring is coming!

Please remind your children and grandchildren of the Scholarship deadline (10 July, 2004) and encourage them to enter for the awards.

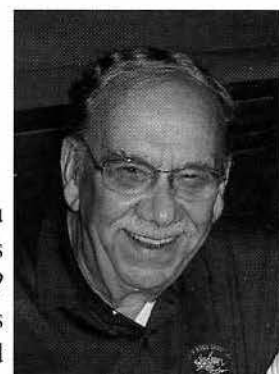
Announcement of the 2004 reunion is in this issue of MM (Rumor has it - it will be in Dayton.) and I encourage ALL to try to make this reunion. It has been 22 years since the group was there. Come and see how our Memorial OAK TREE has grown! There is a new, and much larger, hanger filled with relics that you won't want to miss. Make your plans to attend when you get the reservation forms in the June issue of MM!

Keep warm for the rest of the winter and then enjoy Spring!

May GOD ABUNDANTLY BLESS each of you.

Cheers,

Hal



## DUES REMINDER

2004 dues  
were due in January.

If not paid,  
the June issue of  
Mendlesham Memories  
will  
be your last.



### Thought For today:

*"When you are right, no one remembers;  
when you are wrong, no one forgets."*

*- Irish proverb.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the newly elected president of the 34th Bomb Group Association, I wanted to do something that is long overdue - to officially pay homage to those in and around Mendlesham, England who have been maintaining our 34th Bomb Group memorial, for all these many years. From Harold Rutka, I got the names of Sylvia and Leslie Lummis. With the approval of the officers and board of directors, I wrote a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Loomis thanking them for their dedication and offering any monetary assistance that might be required for flowers, wreaths etc.

The Loomis' returned letter provides names of several people responsible for the memorial upkeep and I want to share that letter with all our members:

1 St Marys Gardens  
Church Road  
Mendlesham  
Stowmarket  
Suffolk  
IP14 5TQ

*Dear Mr. Share*

*Thank you for your letter of 21/10/03. As far as I am aware, we have no immediate need of any financial assistance regarding the care of the 34th Bomber Group memorial at Mendlesham.*

*I have passed copies of your letter on to Gerald Stedman of 5 Jordan Close, Creting St. Mary, Needham Market, Suffolk, IP68 NN, England whose family provided the land the memorial stands on and who still keeps the grass cut and the surrounding area tidy. He also raises the flags on appropriate occasions.*

*I also passed a copy to Margaret Brundish of 44 Horsefair Close, Mendlesham, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5SB, England who organizes the group of mainly ladies who provide and place the flowers on the memorial.*

*I also gave a copy to Caroline Triscott, chairman of our community council, who organizes the reception for your veterans when they visit us and who, with her husband Andy, edits our village newsletter, hoping they can find space to print your letter in our next newsletter.*

*I enclose a copy of the order of service at St. Marys Mendlesham Church held on Sunday 9th November 2003, also photographs of the candles lit in memory of your countrymen who gave their lives whilst serving in the 34th Bomber Group.*

*I also enclose a photograph of your memorial, taken the same day, showing the flowers place by our ladies. The two wreaths placed by your veterans on their last visit (how well they have kept), a note of appreciation from a local family, and a new poppy wreath provided by Gerald Stedman.*

*Thanks, again, for your letter. We look forward to any of your veterans, or their families, visiting us again. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the above address where you can be sure of a warm welcome.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Sylvia and Leslie Lummis*



From the order of service at Mendlesham Church of St Mary on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, 2003: (The Roll of Honor is read, and a candle lit, for each person who died from Mendlesham in the First World War, Second World War, Korean War and candles already lit for the 190 Americans who died from the 34th Bomber Group).



Sign in a TV Producer's office:  
"I could go out of my mind and nobody would  
know the difference".

## REUNION COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The 20th annual 34th Bomb Group (H) Association has been in "the works" since 16 September 2003 and we have finally come to an agreement. This time our destination is the Marriott Hotel, S Patterson Blvd., Dayton, Ohio, "Birthplace of Aviation". The dates are from 8 September 2004 to the departure date, 12 September 2004.

Friday, 10th September 2004 we will have our "Tour Day". We will visit the United States Air Force Museum. This is the World's largest and oldest military aviation museum. The displays consist of 300 aircraft and missiles. The museum has an Imax theater with a six-story screen and stereo sound system. Shows start on the hour. Group, student and senior rates are available. A gift shop, bookstore, model shop and poster shop are on the premises. A cafe, for the hungry, is located on the second floor of the museum. Wheelchairs are available on a limited basis for use inside the museum building. You are encouraged to take pictures and videos. The museum uses exhibit lighting so the use of flash is recommended indoors. The average time for a tour is four hours.

The average temperature during the month of September is a high of 78 degrees and a low of 62.

Dayton, Ohio is served by the major airlines. Interstates 70 and 75 intersect north of the city.

The June issue of Mendlesham Memories will include the reunion and hotel registration forms. Start making your reunion plans now.

\*\*\*\*\*

We now have the information on a return trip to England that some have been asking about. Tamarac Travels has put together a tour with the 100th Bomb Group to Thorpe Abbots, England and to the Continent. The tour will depart on 26 May 2004 to Dunstan Hall with a dinner dance at Molesworth on 29 May. Memorial Day ceremonies at the American Cemetery at Cambridge, a visit to the Duxford Imperial War and the American Air museums, and continuing on to London. Returning home on June 3, 2004 or go on to Czech Republic, returning home on June 8, 2004.

If interested, contact Tamarac Travel, Inc., 10837 Piping Rock Circle, Orlando, Florida 32817- 2939. Phone: 1-321-235-904 or toll free: 1-888-486-9922 or by Fax: 1-321-235-3396.

If you need more information on the 20th annual reunion of the 34th Bomb Group (H) reunion or the England tour call Harold Rutka at 1-218-724-1667.

The reunion committee:

Harold Rutka

Robert Wright

Bruce Sothern



## PX COLUMN

Our thanks to all who have supported our PX and help generate funds for the treasury. Also we want to thank Paul and Berle Anderson for helping in the past years at the PX and Don Allen, a retired Boeing engineer from Wichita, who helped for several years and also carried items to the reunions for us. None of them could make the San Antonio reunion so Paul and Pauline Shull filled in and we sure do want to thank all of them.

Sad to report that Don Allen could not fight off his latest bout with cancer. He is truly missed. Don and I first met at a reunion in Wichita in 1985 and have been close friends ever since. We always looked forward to the reunions and attending open house at the McConnell Air Base here in Wichita. Several times, when we drove into the parking lot for the McConnell open house, the airman directing traffic would salute us and give us special parking privileges. They undoubtedly saw our 8th Air Force, 34th Bomb Group tag on the front of my car and possible our 34th cap and shirt. We certainly appreciated their courtesy and help as well as their training and manners.

Am hoping Paul and Beryl can help at our next reunion and am happy to report we have two additional volunteers to help, David and Sonia Fieber. They are son and daughter in law of Herman and Nancy Fieber. They have added youth and lots of vitality to our group since they started attending. We displayed and sold most of our new white T-shirts at the San Antonio reunion but will be keeping them on hand. For those of you who didn't get to see them, they have the B-24 and the B-17 both pictured on Front and back. Plus the 34th Bomb Group (H) and those on the back show a bright red tail in color. The T-shirts also have a pocket - colorful and nice for summer wear

Thanks again to everyone and PS to Jack. Sure did like the front cover of the December '03 issue of Mendlesham Memories.

Ken Paxton

PX manager.

### Epitaph Humor - with a point:

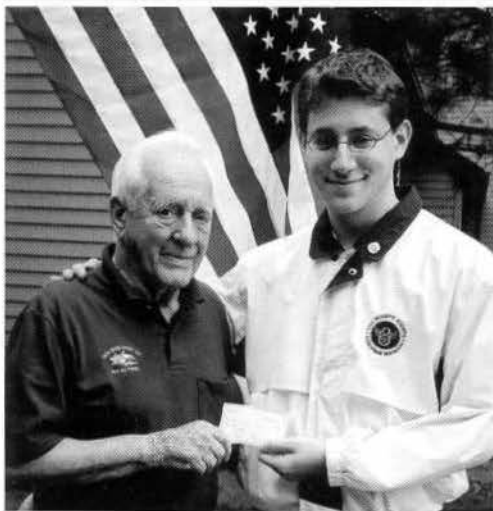
Stranger, stop as you pass by:  
As you are now, so once was I.  
As I am now, you soon will be.  
And so prepare to follow me.

*Someone reading this sentiment on a tombstone, and  
evidently seriously considering the matter,  
wisely added two lines:*

To follow you I'm not content,  
Until I know which way you went!



# Recipients of the 2003 Ray Summa 34th Bomb Group Scholarship Awards



*Zachary Wisner-Gross of New Hyde Park, NY  
Sponsored by - Bob Gross 7th Squadron*

## First Award - \$1000.00

**Zachery Wisner - Gross**

Dear fellow members of the 34th Bomb Group:

When the letter I received notifying me that my grandson, Zachery Wisner-Gross, was the recipient of the 2004 34th Bomb Group Scholarship award I thought, how great it is to have a second grand-child selected to receive the recognition.

I am most thankful to the scholarship committee to have selected him as this years first selection.

Many thanks to not only the committee but the total membership of the 34th Bomb Group Association for their thoughtfulness in their selection.

Sincerely,  
Bob Gross

Zachery Wisner-Gross with Grandfather Bob Gross

## Second Award - \$750.00

**Daniel Crawford**

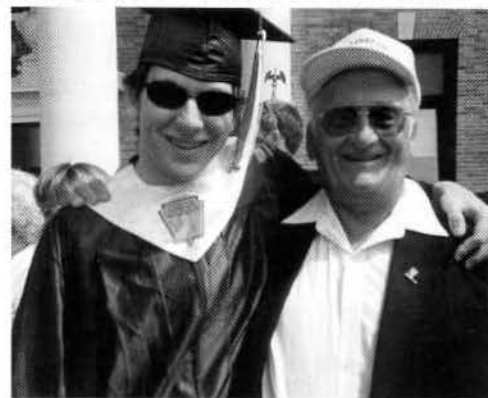
Dear Mr. Province:

I can't tell you how much it means to me to be given this award. I am overwhelmed by the honor of receiving an award from the 34th Bomb Group.

I have always looked up to my grandfather for both his service in World War II and his hard work raising a family. I'm immensely grateful to be receiving this award. Tomorrow I'm making the drive to Ithaca, New York where I'll be starting my freshman year at Cornell University. I'm extremely excited and looking forward to this great opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Crawford

Daniel Crawford with grandfather Harry Crawford



*Daniel Crawford of Ticonderoga, NY with  
Grandfather Harry Crawford  
Sponsored by - Harry Crawford 4th Squadron*

## Third Award - \$500.00

**Courtney Dominique**



*Courtney Dominique of Lafayette, La  
Sponsored by Henrietta Romero 7th Squadron*

Dear 34th Bomb Group Members:

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for awarding me with the Ray Summa Scholarship. Your generosity will definitely be put towards furthering my education. It is such an honor, not only receiving this award, but receiving it from such a prestigious group as well, a generation that I have looked up to my entire life.

My grandfather, Cleveland J. Romero, Jr. Was a World War II veteran. I will forever be grateful to him and all of you for the sacrifices you made for our country. I know that my life would not be the same without you. If my grandfather were still with us today, he would be very proud, since he was a driving force in establishing the Ray Summa Scholarship. This scholarship is a special honor that I am accepting in grandfather's memory.

I am currently enrolled at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and I am pursuing a career in Pharmacy. After completing my first semester, I am on the Dean's List. I dream of one day opening my own pharmacy so that I can be of service to the people of my community.

I thank you again for your service to our country and your generosity in this award. My generation, and those to come, will strive to honor the legacy of "The Greatest Generation." May God bless you for all that you have done and continue to do for us.

Courtney Dominique

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Ray L. Summa, 34th Bomb Group Association Scholarship Fund to be awarded annually to the relative of a member of the 34th Bomb Group Association. The amount to be awarded shall be \$1000.00 for the first place winner, \$750.00 for the second place winner and \$500.00 for the third place winner.

### CRITERIA TO QUALIFY FOR THE 34TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Applicant must be the relative of a paid-up member of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association.
2. Applicant must have maintained a 3.0 average point average on a 4-point scale during his /her senior high school year.
3. Applicant must attend a 2 or 4 year accredited college as a full-time student and maintain a 2.5 grade point average on a 4-point scale.
4. Applicant may also be a college student continuing education and have a 2.5 grade point average on a 4-point scale.

### 2004 Application for the 34th Bomb Group Ray Summa Scholarship Awards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor (paid-up 2004): \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Grad. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Best SAT/ACT Score: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Will pursue Academic Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Colleges and Universities of interest to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary of academic achievements (e.g. scholarships, awards, honor society): \_\_\_\_\_

Extracurricular activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Community activities you have participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies and Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

List any non-government funded jobs which you have held: (Full or part time, with dates): \_\_\_\_\_

(Use additional sheets as needed.)

#### Applications must include and are not complete until the following additional materials have been included and attached:

- 1: All available & most recent high school or college transcript (including current grades).
- 2: Copy of your ACT/SAT test scores.
- 3: An essay on "Why I wish to pursue a College Degree" in 500 words or less.
- 4: Standing in your graduating class (your position and the number of students in class).

**Applications must be postmarked no later than July 10, 2004. (Please, include a self addressed post card if you wish acknowledgment of receipt of application).**

Winners are expected to be announced at the 2004 34th Bomb Group Reunion in September.

Mail completed application to: Scholarship Committee,  
c/o Hal Province  
153 North Hill Drive  
Carriere, MS 39426

# .....PX ORDER FORM.....

AUTO WINDOW STICKER - 2"X4 BLACK AND SILVER

VET: WWII US ARMY AIR CORPS. .... \$4.00 EACH OR 3 FOR \$10.00  
(NO SHIPPING CHARGES ON THIS ITEM)

REPRINT OF 34TH B.G. HISTORY BOOK, 1947 edition, EDWIN S. SMITH .....	\$37.50ea.
PERMANENT NAME TAGS ( First and last names & Sqdn. No) .....	\$10.00ea.
LICENSE PLATE HOLDER (2 for \$5.00) .....	\$3.00ea.
PATCHES - 34TH BOMB GROUP "VALOR TO VICTORY" .....	\$5.00ea.
PATCHES - SQUADRON - 4th - 7th - 18th - 391st and EighthAirForce .....	\$5.00ea.
DECAL - VALOR TO VICTORY - 5" X 5" .....	\$1.50ea.
BUMPER STICKER - 34TH B.G. - 3" X 12" .....	\$1.50ea.
HAT PINS ( FOR DECOR) B-24 - B-17 or POW .....	\$3.50ea.
WINGS - (about 2") - PILOT - BOMBARDIER - NAVIGATOR - GUNNER OR FLIGHT ENGR .....	\$4.00ea.
WINGS (about 1") .....	\$3.00ea.
TIE TACK - 4TH - 7TH - 18TH - 391ST Sqnds and 8th Air Force .....	\$4.00ea.
BALL POINT PEN (retractable) DK. BLUE W/GOLD LETTERS (34TH BG, 8TH AF) .....	\$2.00ea.
VIDEO TAPE 58 mins. ( " Start Your Engines + 50Years") .....	\$19.95ea.
MEN'S POLO SHIRT W/ POCKET AND 34TH B.G. Logo ( Hunter Green & Cobblestone Biege) M. LR. XLR. XXLRL .....	\$25.95ea.
MEN'S POLO SHIRT ( White W/ Logo - no pocket) X Large only .....	\$25.95ea.
CAP - ROYAL BLUE or NAVY w Patriotic flag on bill. ....	\$8.50ea.
NEW ITEM (First shown @ San Antonio Reunion):	
WHITE T-SHIRT W/POCKET & LOGO OF BOTH B-17 & B-24 ON FRONT & BACK - Picture on back shows our bright red rudder. Nice for warm weather & very colorful .....ALL SIZES - \$12.00 EACH - OR - 2 FOR 22.00ea.	
KEYRING - B-17, B-24 or 8th Air Force. ....	\$4.00ea.
KEYRING with leather back. ....	\$6.00ea.
BOLO TIE - B-17 OR B-24 or 8th Air Force .....	\$6.00ea.
BOLO TIE with Mother of Pearl background .....	\$10.00ea.
BELT BUCKLE "America's Heritage - The Right to Bear Arms" .....	\$11.50ea.

PLEASE CIRCLE ITEMS DESIRED  
AND INCLUDE YOU TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH EACH ORDER  
(sometimes needed for clarification)  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

Please add \$3.50 postage for orders under \$20.00 and \$4.50 postage for orders \$20.00 and over  
Send check or money order to:

34th B.G. PX  
Ken Paxton  
6402 E. 11th St.  
Wichita, KS 67206  
Tel: (316) 683-2900  
e-mail - kenpaxton@sbcglobal.net

**Thanks for your support of the 34th BGA. We wish all of you good health and much happiness!**



## PILOT



The pilot had to have good leadership skills for the crew to develop as a team and depend on one another, which was vital in emergencies.

The pilot of the B-17 was the "aircraft commander." Typically, he was a 21-year-old, newly introduced to military life, as was the rest of the crew. He had just graduated from flight training school with a little flight time and no experience. His job was to physically fly the airplane. The co-pilot assigned to the crew assisted him in doing this. Both pilots were expected to know the operational characteristics of the B-17 and the functioning of all its systems.

The pilot was also charged with ensuring that the training syllabus set up for the crew was accomplished and that each member of the crew received the training required.

The pilot was responsible for the individual operation of each and every flight the crew conducted, whether in the training phase or on combat missions. The course of action taken in any emergency was his decision to make. If time permitted, it was made with input from the pertinent crewmembers. In many instances, the urgency of the situation did not permit such input until after the fact.

The combat crew of a B-17, or any other multiple crew aircraft, developed a rapport and a camaraderie; the tone of which was set, to a large degree, by the crew's pilot.

## CO-PILOT

Close formation flying or flying a damaged Fortress required the skills of both pilots.

The Fortress, like other American medium and heavy bombers, was designed to carry two pilots, a requirement of all multi-engined US Army aircraft. Other airforces considered this a waste of skilled manpower but the policy was thoroughly proven by the Americans in combat. The rigors of close formation flying for long periods of time would place tremendous physical and mental strain on a single pilot. For that reason alone the co-pilot or "guy in the right seat" was essential. There were many occasions when one pilot became a battle casualty and the presence of the second pilot saved the crew as well as the aircraft.

Prior to the start of a mission, after a ground inspection of the airplane, the crew would wait for the signal from the tower to start the engines. Once the signal was received the co-pilot would read the pre-start check. Upon completion of the checklist the co-pilot would prime and start each engine. The engines would be warmed up at 1000rpm. Prop feathering was checked at 1500 rpm. Each engine was then run up to test magnetos and turbos.

As the B-17 started moving into position the crew would be watching for the tail number of the aircraft they would follow for take-off. Once their assigned plane was spotted the co-pilot would release the parking brake and roll on to the taxiway. The tail wheel lock situated on the cockpit floor was operated by the co-pilot and would have to be unlocked and locked often during taxiing, particularly on curved perimeter taxiways. When their time came for take off, the pilot would line up the plane and the co-pilot would lock the tail wheel. At this critical stage, the co-pilot had to keep his eyes on the instruments, as the pilot advanced the throttles. The co-pilot followed through with the throttle controls, taking them over from the pilot as soon as maximum power was reached. Normally, with a full bomb load, every bit of runway was used.

After takeoff, the pilot would call for gear up and as the co-pilot actuated the landing gear switch, he would also apply the brakes to stop the wheels from spinning. Once assembled in the formation, the co-pilot normally flew the plane as much as the pilot did. The pilot in command had to have his eyes glued to his lead aircraft, even during fighter attacks and flak. The pilot that wasn't flying monitored the instruments and intercom.

After the bombing run, on the return leg from the mission and when out of danger, the formation could loosen up. In the landing pattern, the co-pilot lowered the gear and flaps for touch down. Upon reaching the dispersal point the co-pilot would verify that all switches were off before leaving the aircraft.



# Pearls of Wisdom

A penny saved is a government oversight.



Living on earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun.

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you are on.

Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?

Ever notice that people who are late are often much jollier than people who have to wait for them?

Birthdays are good for you;  
the more you have, the longer you live.

Blessed are they who go around in circles, for they shall be known as "Wheels".

## Thought For today:

*"During my 87 years,  
I have witnessed a  
whole succession of  
technological  
revolutions. But none  
of them has done away  
with the need for  
character in the  
individual or the  
ability to think."*



-Bernard M. Baruch,  
American businessman  
and statesman (1870-1965)

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

### SUBJECT:

### 391st Bomb Squadron at Blythe, CA - 1943

At 10:30 PM on September 22, 1943 a B24D No. 40356 of the 20th Bomber Command, 34th Bomb Group, 391st squadron, crashed into a hillside in southern Osborne County, Kansas, killing all the servicemen aboard. They had left the airfield at Blythe, California on a training flight to San Antonio, Texas, via Topeka, Kansas.

With the 60th anniversary of the crash on September 22nd approaching, the people of Osborne County decided that the honoring of these men was long overdue. So, at 10 AM on Saturday, October 10, 2003, there was an outdoor public memorial in the gazebo at the Osborne City park on West Main St. The American Legion chaplain for the state of Kansas lead the services. Also, in the works, is the designing of a permanent gray granite monument to be placed at the crash site. A dedication of the monument will be held sometime next spring to ensure that the memory and sacrifice of these servicemen will not be forgotten.

For the past few months I have been trying to contact the families of the 11 servicemen and let them know that their loved ones are being remembered and let them be aware of the monument dedication next spring in case they should wish to attend. Any help your organization can give in helping to find and contact these families would be greatly appreciated.

2nd Lt. Joseph H. Beves - Staten Island, NY

Sgt Marlin G Chamberlin - Williamsport, PA

2nd Lt. Cleatus Christopher - Paris, TN

Sgt. Howard R. Eicher - Piqua, OH

2nd Lt. Frank C. Fischer - Floral Park, NY

Instructor-pilot Flight Officer Donald L. Kidder,  
Milton Junction, WI

2nd Lt. Arthur H. Lamker - Littleferry, NJ

1st Lt. LaRue B. Lee - Sacramento, CA

Sgt. Bobby S. Sanford - Marks, MI

Flight Officer J. Singleton Waldrop - Atlanta, GA

Sgt. Chester J. Urbanowicz - Jersey City, NJ

Respectfully,

Von Rothenberger

Director, Osborne Area Chamber of Commerce

130 North First St.

Osborne, KS 67473

1-785-346-2881

ochamber@ruraltel.net



## Finding A House To Love

A home is more than just bricks and mortar, wood and nails. It's a private refuge where we find peace and comfort, spend time together with those closest to us and dream our dreams.



Robert and Esther Wright built their home in 1951 on Parkovash Avenue in South Bend and have been there ever since.

### 52 years' worth of memories

"I grew up just down the street, so I've lived on Parkovash all my life. My parents moved here in 1920. When I was growing up, there was nothing beyond Iroquois (Street). My mother called it the cow pasture, but I never saw any cows.



"I've seen a lot of changes in the neighborhood in terms of houses and kids. When we moved, there were four of us children, and we were the only children on the block. Then a family moved across the street with four children, and we were thrilled. Then all of a sudden there was an influx of families with children. When we decided to build, he had to have two lots because he didn't want to be too close to anyone."

-Esther Wright

"I grew up near the state line, in the country, so Esther made a town boy out of me. I started building this house in 1950. It took me nine months and a loss of 20 pounds to build. We moved in on Lincoln's birthday (on) Feb. 12, 1951. At the end of May, I was recalled during the Korean War as a reservist (I had been a bomber pilot in Germany in World War II). I didn't have any yard or sidewalks in when I got called up. At first, I was stationed in Columbus, Ind., and had weekends off, so I'd come home and work on the yard and sidewalks. Now, we've been here 52 years. We've certainly enjoyed it and have a lot of memories over the years."

-Robert Wright



## FRIENDS WRITE

### BIRNIE FARLEY - VERONA, NJ

Heard from Bill Brown, he has macular degeneration so is limited now. Several of the group were surprised he didn't arrive for the reunion banquet.

Mary and Tony Coutros' two boys and daughter had a surprise 50th party for them 2 weeks ago. Wongs came in from California and Hal and Jan Province drove up from Mississippi and stayed with me. We all had a great time and it was a surprise!

I'm visiting my daughter and her family for awhile - seeing lots of volley ball, soccer and basketball games.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WILLIAM DONLON - BOKEELIA, FL

From time to time I guess I should drop the Editor a note and tell him that I really enjoy the various editions of Mendlesham Memories. As a matter of fact, I think I have kept most of those I have received and from time to time read the back issues. Many thanks to you and the others for hours of memories.

Sixty years is a long time. Sixty years ago the 34th Bomb Group was at Blythe, California and within a short time would be in England on Mendlesham Air Base. At the time we arrived in England I was what is known as a "paddle foot" in the 18th squadron, a Classification Specialist assigned to Base Headquarters. I am the only Classification Specialist from the 34th Bomb Group, and maybe the full ETO to have the honor of an Air Medal and two clusters. Just before Christmas in 1944 there was a request for volunteers to go to a school for radar training. Unassigned gunners were the first choice, but others could be considered. Then Major Bob Gay approved and assisted me in being assigned to this school. The schooling was at a British Air Base in Luton, England. I attended this school, returned to the 34th, qualified as an air crew member and commenced flying missions. I was not assigned every mission but flew one out of every three or so. It took a long time to get in 30 missions at this rate and I had only completed 18 when the Germans learned of the good work I was doing and surrendered.

The radar we were trained to operate was counter radar, jamming ground radar the Germans were using. We were told our work cut losses from flack. My first mission was to Berlin, where as the saying goes the flack was thick enough to walk on. I do not think I was too scared on this first mission, but on the 17 that followed I must admit that sometimes fear was a factor. I was always glad to return and have the Red Cross give me the cup of hot chocolate and the "medical" shot of something. At times I still remember the taste of hot chocolate and bourbon. I have never ordered it at a bar, that's for sure.

As a Radar Operator, I was not assigned to a crew. When we were briefed we were told the ship and crew with which we would be flying for that mission. The crews with which I flew

Continued On Next Page  
Page 11



must have been the best because I am still around. Many thanks to those fine fellows. Not being assigned to a crew made it impossible to form lasting friendships as a crewmember. I often read about the closeness crew members felt for one another. The method of our assignment made this closeness impossible, for this I am sorry. It would be nice to swap stories with crewmembers.

In addition to the 18 missions, I flew on some of the food drops to Holland. I will never forget these. As many of us did, I put my name and home address on a package. The gentleman that picked it up wrote to me a year later and in 1964, while in Holland, I met him and his family. This is another story, which some day I may reduce to writing and share with you.

May God bless you and the members of the 34th Bomb Group Association.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **JUANITA SANTAS - DUNEDIN, FL**

I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate what you did for me and my family when you put that beautiful picture and write-up of Verne in the Mendlesham Memories. I was surprised and pleased, as I had no idea that it would be there. Thank you for your thoughtful kindness.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **BOB DEES - TORRANCE, CA**

Have just received the Sept. '03 issue of Mendlesham Memories and, as usual, enjoy it.

We would like to have been able to go to the San Antonio get together, however, travel has become pretty difficult for us. The waiting periods at LAX are pretty long.

Each issue of MM brings back a lot of thoughts and memories of those days - some good, some not so good.

As I wrote to you in Southern Mississippi, I recall spending a couple of weeks for several summers sailing along the Mississippi coast as a Boy Scout in the mid 30's. I have fond memories of that area.

Thank you for your good work for the 34th Bomb Group.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **ALLEN and AGNES ISRAELSEN - BALTIMORE, MD**

Here we are in Albuquerque again to spend Christmas with our children. There has been no snow since we arrived-just beautiful sunny days and crisp chilly nights.

We are thinking of you and send our best wishes for the holiday season. Our life goes on as usual at the Oak Crest Retirement Community in Baltimore and we feel fortunate to be there. This year we missed the annual reunion of the 34th Bomb Group in San Antonio but hope to get to the next one.

We look forward to peace for everyone in the New Year as well as good health and happy times.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **RICHARD JENKINS - VANCOUVER, B.C.**

I have been laid up with a spine problem most of last year and have been out of touch with the dues I have owed. I have trouble walking and have to push a walker around. With morphine for my pain, I am not too spry now.

By the way, I noted the story in the June 2003 issue of MM about the Long March of the POW's to avoid the Russians. I was on that march with my crewman, Julian Hess. We were shot down on August 5th, 1944.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **GINNY MUENTE - WAUWATOSA, WI**

Thanks for a great reunion. We appreciate all your hard work.

We made 4,400 miles on that trip. Visited my childhood friend in El Paso. She is in a lovely retirement home. On to Tucson and spent 2 days with Fred's brother, then to Scottsdale and 5 days with our son Mike and family. Then they visited us at Embassy Resort where we were staying. Swam each night - 90 degrees and it was great!

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **MIKE DADDURA - HUNTINGTON STATION, NY**

I grew up in Plainview, Long Island, NY. My backyard was on one of the approach paths for Grumman Aero. I was always looking up at the inbound traffic. Later on, I had the pleasure to work for Republic Aviation, who built the P-47, in Farmingdale, L.I. NY, where I got started collecting WWII memorabilia. Sadly, Republic is now a shopping mall and Grumman's no longer make aircraft.

My dad served in the Pacific Theater and left me with a few Japanese items, but I have grown fond of WWII aircraft and the people who flew them. Frank Gabreski invited my son and I to his house to watch some gun camera film from some of his missions - what a thrill to be sitting with such a person.

Frank, along with so many who served our country in that era, are gone and I'm afraid that what they did, when needed, is fading. I have a room in my house with walls covered and several books with photos of that era of which I am very proud. Family, friends, neighbors, Boy Scouts and school classes, from time to time, have requested to look at my collection.

I would be most grateful for any memorabilia and/or autographed photos, crew or individual, members of the 34th Bomb Group might want to contribute. I would be glad to pay for any cost or make a donation to your organization.

Thank you very much:

Mike Daddura  
2 Raphael St.  
Huntington Station, NY 11746  
(631) 271-4280

\*\*\*\*\*

**WALTER STURDIVAN - STOCKTON, CA**

I just had to tell you how much I appreciated the Dec. 2003 issue of MM. That cover (BABES IN ARMS) is a classic. I still laugh when I look at it, it's so neat. Whoever made that picture should get a medal. I think you scooped the whole publishing business with that cover. Your coverage of the 34th Group reunion was excellent as well. I'm sorry we couldn't attend and am awaiting the location of the next one. It's nice to see some of the younger people coming in.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RALPH PETERSON - GRAND RAPIDS, MI**

Thanks for the wonderful job you are doing and have done in the past.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LEONARD BESS - SANTA MARIA, CA**

We enjoyed the San Antonio reunion and stayed over to Monday after almost all of you had gone home. We drove to Hondo to see what was left of the old training area and could only find Base Operations which is now a family restaurant. I think the whole town shows up Sundays for breakfast, so we joined them. The big surprise for me was on the bulletin board. It was a picture of the graduation class 44-4-9. The owner said, to the best of her knowledge, it had been hanging there for the last 59 years. I would like to hear from anyone that was in that class. I have only seen one of the students since and that was in the 50's.

Enjoy the holidays. Hope to see you next year.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON BENSCOTER - LAPWAI, ID**

The fourth edition of MM has recently arrived. The front page was unbeatable. The quality of the whole magazine is first class.

Even though I have a lifetime membership, I feel kind of guilty for living so long. For that reason, the enclosed check is to aid in the publication. I enjoy reading it and appreciate the work all of you put into it.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ART BUSSE - ANAHEIM, CA**

Hope you are in good health. Kathy and I are in good shape - just getting a bit older. Aren't we all? Take care.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WENSEY MARSH - SPRINGFIELD MO**

Enclosed is check for 2004 dues for myself and my son, John. John enjoys the newsletter and I know he will even more so as time goes by. I feel pride in the scholarship and associate membership programs. They should both strengthen and lengthen the life of the association. Even an old yard bird has to appreciate all the good works being done by the group.

\*\*\*\*\*

**OLIVER BOLDUC - CHAPLIN, CT**

I'm one who has failed again in 2003 to help the MM with an item, tho in the past I did and guess I have no further items of interest as I gave most of my experiences to the MM long ago.

I'll always grieve over seeing my plane shot down, over the field, by the German night intruders on D Day plus one at approximately 11:00 PM.

Pilot Eastman and I had become very good friends and I waited for hours for him and his crew, with my plane, to return that night. Instead, I saw the shooting, fire and crash and later found out it was Pilot Eastman. He gave his best that I can still enjoy my freedom here in the U.S.A. I often wondered how his family is doing and I grieved with them.

I do praise all who keep the MM going and wish all a happy holiday season.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ERIC MACKEY - FORT MYERS, FL**

Enjoyed meeting you and others in San Antonio.

\*\*\*\*\*

**VERB HOLCOMB - SAN BERNARDINO, CA**

We had a real good Christmas. Our son and his family were here with us for a couple of days and we sure enjoyed them and the grandchildren.

Betty and Lonnie, our son, surprised me on my birthday, Nov. 28th, with a big party at one of the nicer restaurants. We had a great time with over 30 guests. Lonnie roasted me, as he usually does, but I got even when I had the floor. It is hard to realize that I am 80 years old but time marches on.

I really wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the job you do as editor. I can imagine how much of your time it takes and how much trouble it is for you.

The fires in the San Bernadino Mountains that did so much damage and burned so many homes came within one block of our house. We live on 37th St. and it burned houses on 38th St. We did have to evacuate one night when the fire was getting close. It was interesting to see what we elected to take with us as we only had our car to load up.

We look forward to seeing you all at the 2004 reunion, wherever that might be.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MOVING?** IF YOU ARE MOVING SOON, BEFORE THE NEXT MENDLESHAM MEMORIES IS DUE, OR IF THERE IS SOME MISTAKE IN YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS, PLEASE ENTER THE CORRECT INFORMATION BELOW, CUT THIS OUT AND SEND TO: **HAL PROVINCE, 153 NORTH HILL DR., CARRIERE, MS 39426**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing labels are printed on Feb. 1, May 1, Aug.1 and Nov.1 for the March, June, September & December issues.

**BOB HAM - RAMSEUR, NC**

2004 is getting a good start here this morning with bright blue skies and temperatures expected in the mid 60's.

Congratulations on your new job as president.

Nancy and I hope to attend a reunion soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHARLOTTE POTAK - HICKSVILLE, NY**

Greetings from NY. Enclosed find dues for 2004, in fondest memory of:

S/Sgt. Walker Potak  
234 AAF BU  
8th Air Force

Have a wonderful, memorable and healthful New Year 2004.

P.S. Glad I'm still here to send the dues.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STEPHEN WEGENER - NEW ORLEANS, LA**

Enclosed are my dues for 2004, I am sending an additional \$15 that can be place in the general fund, scholarship fund or wherever it can best be used by the Association.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ALICE PAWLOWSKI - DUNKIRK, NY**

Enclosed are the dues for 2004. I finished reading the December issue of Mendlesham Memories. The group at San Antonio had a great time judging by their smiling faces.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RAYMOND JUNE - LAWRENCE, KA**

Enclosed my check for 2004 membership dues.

I enjoy getting the magazine, Mendlesham Memories, and the 8th AAF News from the Historical Society. Thanks for keeping things going.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FLOYD RICHMOND - PASCO, WA**

Congratulations on your new job as president of the 34th Bomb Group Assoc.

Enclosed is photo of the license plate I have on my pickup truck. I've had many comments about it.



We have had more seasonal weather here since New Year's Day than we have seen in 10 years. -13 degrees and a foot of snow. We live in the desert section of the state so it is a rarity.

Miriam and I want to wish all the 34th members a happy and especially healthy New Year.

A note from Beryl Donze, widow of Bill Donze, former member of the 34th from Mendlesham stating that Father Philip of Mendlesham church lit a candle for each of the 34th boys who died during the war during a recent Remembrance Day service.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOLA VAN PIERCE - DALLAS, TX**

Enclosed is our check for 2 year renewal of "34th Bomb Group" publications. Granvel so enjoys receiving the magazine. You are doing a fine job.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HEAVEN UNDER PAR

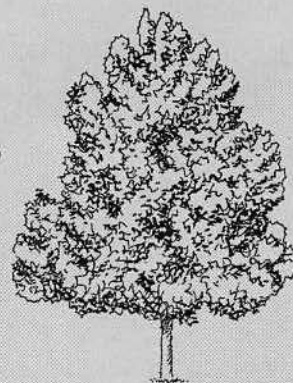
A golfer hit his drive on the first hole 300 yards right down the middle. When it came down, however, it hit a sprinkler and the ball went sideways into the woods. He was angry, but he went into the woods, hit a very hard 2 iron, which hit a tree and bounced back straight at him. It hit him in the temple and killed him.

He was at the Pearly Gates and St. Peter looked at the big book and said, "I see you were a golfer, is that correct?"

"Yes, I was," he replied.

St. Peter then said, "Do you hit the ball a long way?"

The golfer replied, "You bet, after all, I got here in 2, didn't I?"





## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
BASS	RUBIN	391LM	7755 JERICHO TPK	WOODBURY	NY	11797
FIEBER	HERMAN G, JR	18	3905 NOEL PL	BAKERSFIELD	CA	93306
HOOD	JACK R.	7LM	377 SE FAWN GLEN	LAKE CITY	FL	32025
HUDSON	HAWLEY,T	4	3718 TOMLINSON ST	BONITA SPRINGS	FL	34134
MC GOWAN	NORMA	391ALM	311 MAPLEWOOD PL	SIOUX CITY	IA	51104
MURRAY	CLAUDE, C		7211 N.7TH ST. APT. C-3	PHOENIX	AZ	85020
PETERSON	RALPH, C	18	3578 REEDS CROSSING DR. S.E.,	GRAND RAPIDS, MI		49546
WESSEL	DOROTHY	4	104 INDIAN CREEK DR	PARIS	TN	38242
WRIGHT	JOHN, R		1700 OCEAN DR. APT 402	VERO BEACH	FL	32963
ZESCH	EDWARD, E	7	1372 ROADRUNNER DR.	CORONA	CA	92881

## TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	DOD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CAITO	ANTHONY	18	11-11-02	30100 WINSOR DRIVE	BAY CITY	OH	44140

## NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
ARNOLD	GREG	1000 POWELL DR.	SINGER ID	FL	33404
COLLIER	CHRISTENE	845 VANARSDAL	CLARKSTON	WA	99403
DOMINQUE	CONNIE ROMERO	214 NORMAN DR.	LAFAYETTE	LA	70501
HANSON	LYNN	809 JUNAITA	FLORENCE	SC	36830
HANSON	SCOTT	1550 CRESCENT BLVD.	AUBURN	AL	36830
LAFLEUR	MACKLYN ROMERO	131 SATURN DR.	LAFAYETTE	LA	70501
LEVI	LEILA	18 NORTH VENICE BLVD#C,	VENICE	CA	90291
LOWERY	JAMES	2919 SUGAR WOOD DR	LEAGUE CITY	TX	77513
MARLETTE	DIANE	103 BEECHWOOD DR.	GROTON	NY	13073
MCDOWELL	SHARI	1220 14TH ST.	CLARKSTON	WA	99403
RANSTROM	RONDA	724 FAIRMONT	BURLEY	ID	83318
RICHMOND	BRENT	5919 ARGENT RD.	PASCO	WA	99301
RICHMOND	GRANT	PO BOX 805	POMEROY	WA	99347
ROMERO	GLEN	3886 DAPHNE AVE.	PALM BEACH GRDS,	FL	33410
ROMERO	GUY	205 E. BLUEBIRD	LAFAYETTE	LA	70508
ROMERO	ROBERT EARL	2121 GUILLOT RD.	YOUNGSVILLE	LA	70592
TAUZIN	NORMA ROMERO	132N ELENA DRIVE	SCOTT	LA	70583



# *The National World War II Memorial*

Nearly 59 years after the end of World War II, the National World War II Memorial will be dedicated in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 29th, 2004.

The Memorial Day weekend celebration on the National Mall will culminate an 11-year effort to honor America's World War II generation. Congress authorized the memorial in 1993. Construction began in September 2001 after several years of fund raising and public hearings.

The official dedication celebration will span four days and will include a WWII-themed reunion exhibition on the National Mall staged in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, a memorial service at the Washington Cathedral, and an entertainment salute to WWII veterans from military performing units. Other related activities in cultural venues throughout the city are expected.

Details on all dedication-related events will be made available as they are confirmed by calling the memorial's toll free telephone number at 800-639-4992, For hotel reservations and further information on the memorial, i.e., construction, design, WWII Registry, refer to website <http://www.wwiimemorial.com>.



## Easter Greetings to All!



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**34th Bomb Group**



**From the collection of:**

**Joseph K Marks**

**Pilot, 4th Sq., Crew No. 12, April - Aug 1944**