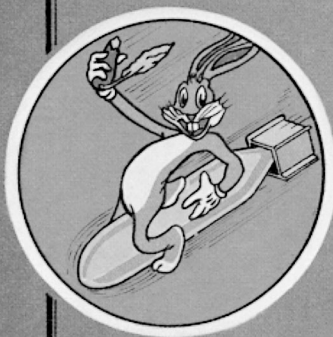


# 380<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP



HERKY-528, LIL BEAVER-529, BUGS BUNNY-530, DONALD DUCK-531 SQUADRONS

*Francis Johnston*



## The 380th Bomb Group Association

5th AF -- RAAF

*Affectionately Known As*

# The Flying Circus

NEWSLETTER #66

JANUARY 2019

### *Contents of this Issue*

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Robert Withorn

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### **LINKS**

#### **Membership form:**

<http://380th.org/>  
[2019member-form.pdf](#)

#### **Gear order form:**

<http://380th.org/Gear2019pdf>

#### **Comments/TAPS notification:**

<http://380th.org/form.html>

### **FACEBOOK**

Search for the group *380th Bombardment Group (5th AF, WWII)* or go to  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/380th/>

#### *In Memoriam page:*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1686408651610839/>

### **380th Bomb Group Association**

130 Colony Road

West Lafayette, IN 47906-1209 USA

<http://380th.org/>

Email: [380th.ww2@gmail.com](mailto:380th.ww2@gmail.com)

Phone: 765-463-5390

Cell (texting preferred): 765-412-5370 (Eastern time zone)

Please leave voicemail if no answer on cell or home phone

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## ***SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE REUNION PATCH***

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A special commemorative reunion patch has been created to commemorate our group's reunions from 1981-2018. Cost of each patch is: \$10.00

If you are interested in purchasing one (or more) of these special patches, please contact Barb Gotham by email, text, or letter.



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### ***THANK YOU ALL!***

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December 18, 2018

Dear 380th Members,

I want to thank everyone who has attended and supported our annual reunions since I took over the reins from Ted Williams after the 2006 reunion in Washington DC - the first reunion I planned was in Dayton, Ohio, in September 2007.

I've had a wonderful time working with people in Tucson (twice!), Savannah, Branson, Colorado Springs, New Orleans, Seattle, Dayton, OH (again!), Norfolk, Dallas, and Albuquerque! It has been a great experience, and it is bittersweet that 2018 was the final annual reunion. I say "annual" because I don't want to say there will never be another 380th reunion - it just won't be on an annual basis!

My husband, Doug, and I now have quite an extended family with everyone we've met over the years through the 380th Bomb Group Association!! Please keep in touch, don't be strangers, and we hope to meet you again in the future!!

Also, although this was the last annual reunion, this does not mean this is the end of this association! There is plenty of work to be done with the group's history. These newsletters will continue. The 380th's website and Facebook page remain. Nothing else is changing!

Please send newsletter articles and suggestions for articles!!

Best wishes, everyone, for the new year!!

*Barb Gotham*



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## 2018 REUNION - TUCSON, ARIZONA - NOVEMBER 1-4

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### Attendees

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#### 528th Squadron

Peggy & Dean Baker  
Caroline & Tom Taylor  
*Bill Vance: Aircraft Commander, Vance Crew*

Gregory & Crystal Baker  
Dexter & Sharon Baker Jr.  
*Dexter Baker Sr.: Aircraft Commander, Baker Crew*

John Benbow  
Marshall & Mary Benbow  
*John W Benbow: Aircraft Commander, Benbow Crew*

Ann & Bill Bishop  
Ellen Caudle  
Cay & Peter delValle  
Liz Miles & David Mulvihill  
*John Carl Netter: Pilot, Rupp Crew*

#### • Bill Brew

Accompanied by Len & Joanne Slama  
Bombardier, Tiffany Crew & Adjutant

Martha Collins  
Mary Hamlin  
*Houston Burkhart: Gunner, Roth Crew*

Terry & Suzi O'Day  
Kathy Curtis  
Kyle O'Day  
Sean & Dianne Curtis  
Will Curtis  
Deb & Rudy Porchivina  
Matthew Porchivina  
Erin Singleton  
*Russ O'Day: Pilot, Vance Crew; Acft Cmdr, O'Day Crew*

Terry & John Knight  
*Thomas S Isaack: Pilot, Stovell Crew*

Bill Randall  
*Loyd Oakes: Bombardier, Synar Crew*

Bill Shek  
Diana Shek  
*William Shek: Aircraft Commander, Shek Crew*

Ralph Sword  
*James Sword: Radio Operator, Roth Crew*

#### 529th Squadron

• **Gerry & Katherine Corwin**  
Navigator, Horton and Steele Crews

Ed Holley  
*Jimmie D. Alexander: Bombardier, See Crew*

Spencer & Kathleen Rackley  
*Al Busedu: Gunner, Deaner's Crew*

#### 530th Squadron

Steve & Barbara Stadler  
*Eugene Stadler: Flight Engineer*

#### 531st Squadron

Marie Anderson-Johnson  
Barb Ricketson  
*Robert J (Andy) Anderson: Pilot*

Ruth & Bob Beelman  
*John W Jackson: Ground Staff, Munitions*

George Poy  
Roselyn & Steven Kin  
Melissa, Erica, Steven JJ Kin  
David Bayer  
*George Lim Poy: Navigator, Benson Crew*

Norma Lamicella  
*Raymond Benedict: Gunner, Fowler Crew*

Jaye & Mary Lou Sauer  
Bob Johnson & Carolyn Stang  
*John Sauer: Gunner, Zagrobski Crew*

#### • Ed Walford

Ted Walford  
Jenny Walford  
Navigator, Sears Crew

Steve Wassner & Karen Hinton  
*Bob Wassner: Pilot, Magee Crew*

#### OTHER

Barb & Doug Gotham  
*Friends of Ted Williams, 531st, Navigator, Magee Crew*

Geno Talas  
*Manager, Hopi Veterans Services, The Hopi Tribe*

• 380th Veteran



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## 2018 REUNION - TUCSON, ARIZONA - NOVEMBER 1-4

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Memorial Service  
Friday, 2 November 2018 - 8:30 AM  
Pima Air & Space Museum, Tucson, Arizona

Flag Ceremony & Presentation to Mr. William Brew, 380th Veteran (by Davis-Monthan AFB Honor Guard)  
Presentation of the Colors (Honor Guard)  
Welcome & Greeting (Doug Gotham)  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Reading of names of deceased (Doug Gotham)  
Moment of Silence  
Taps (Honor Guard Bugler)  
Retirement of the Colors (Honor Guard)

Davis-Monthan AFB Honor Guard Members

JONES, JACOREY M A1C

GONZALES, BLAKE J Amn

SPROUSE, MEKAYLA D A1C

WHITE, PAUL D II SrA

BRISON, NICHOLAS A. TSgt, NCOIC, Program Manager, Base Honor Guard



Special thanks to Pima Air & Space Museum for allowing us early access to the museum for our Memorial Service and to the Public Affairs Office, Davis-Monthan AFB for their assistance with this program.

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### TAPS

*Those who have left us (reported 2017-2018)*

#### **528th Squadron**

Dexter K. Baker, Sr., October 14, 2018  
John Warren Benbow, December 6, 2017  
Patrick G. Borgese, July 4, 2000  
Harold D. Clapsaddle, April 21, 2007  
Norma Clapsaddle, January 6, 2017  
Alice Picton Craig, September 9, 2018  
David L. Lehigh, May 1, 2015  
Marie Lehigh, May 1, 2017  
Russell M.H. O'Day, March 26, 2018  
Betty E. Rader, November 17, 2017

#### **529th Squadron**

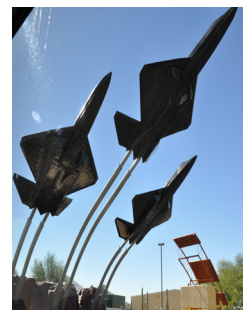
Betty Beegle, December 16, 2017  
Fred D. Carlage, June 1, 2018  
William S. Freeh, October 2, 2016  
Irene Lanners, January 20, 2018  
Daniel Edison McIntyre, January 14, 2009  
Arthur J. Prindle, July 12, 1987  
Stephen E. Seger, February 28, 2018  
Robert G. Smith, February 11, 2018  
Theodore William Stathis, February 11, 2018  
Mitchell T. Strepko, November 19, 2016

#### **530th Squadron**

Garnet Batcheler, November 5, 2003  
Margaret Kunz, November 1, 2017  
Lester L. Moreland, February 23, 1987  
Jack J. Schofield, December 17, 2016  
Dewey W. Struck, February 8, 2018  
Milton D. Norstrom, March 19, 2015

#### **531st Squadron**

Donald Leon Grieb, February 25, 2018  
Barbara H. Walford, October 21, 2017  
Earl Eugene Walker, February 22, 2018  
Marilyn Stephenson, Winter 2017  
Daniel E. Stoddard, December 2, 2017





## 2018 REUNION - TUCSON, ARIZONA - NOVEMBER 1-4



Group at Pima Air & Space Museum in front of B-24 BUNGAY BUCKAROO (for more on this aircraft, see: <http://www.pimaair.org/aircraft-by-name/item/consolidated-b-24j-liberator>)



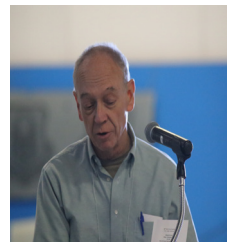
Marie Anderson-Johnson, Ed Walford, Bill Brew



Ed Walford, Bill Brew



Peggy Vance Baker



Ted Walford



Bill Shek



Marie Anderson



Bus Ride!!



Barb Gotham



Radisson Tucson



Ann & Bill Bishop, Cay & Peter delValle, Ellen Caudle, Liz Miles & David Mulvihill



## 2018 REUNION - TUCSON, ARIZONA - NOVEMBER 1-4



Bob & Ruth Beelman



Ed Holley



Ted, Ed & Jenny Walford



Tom & Caroline Taylor



Peggy & Dean Baker



Sharon, Dexter, Greg, & Crystal Baker



Bill Randall & Norma Lamicella



Mary Lou & Jaye Sauer



Mary Hamlin & Martha Collins



Marie Anderson & Barb Ricketson



Steve & Barb Stadler



Mary, Marshall & John Benbow



John & Terry Knight



Fallen Soldiers Table



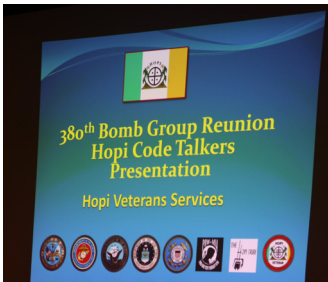
Joanne & Len Slama, Bill Brew



Joanne & Len Slama



## 2018 REUNION - TUCSON, ARIZONA - NOVEMBER 1-4



Geno Talas, Guest Speaker, Saturday Meeting



Steve Wassner & Karen Hinton



Ralph Sword, Mary Hamlin



John, Mary & Marshall Benbow



Barb & Doug Gotham



Spencer & Kathleen Rackley

Rosalyn  
Kin,  
Geno  
Talas,  
George  
Poy



George Poy, Melissa, Erica, Steven JJ Kin, David Bayer, Steven & Rosalyn Kin



Rudy, John, Matthew Porchivina, Dean Baker, Kathy Curtis, Deb Porchivina, Peggy Baker



Terry & Suzi O'Day, Will Curtis, Dianne Curtis, Tom & Caroline Taylor, Sean Curtis



Marie Anderson



John & Terry Knight



## 2018 REUNION - TUCSON, ARIZONA - NOVEMBER 1-4



Group Photo before Saturday dinner



Gerry Cohen-Corwin



Bill  
Brew, Ed  
Walford,  
Gerry  
Corwin  
Geno  
Talas, Bill  
Brew, Ed  
Walford,  
Gerry  
Corwin



Sean Curtis,  
Deb Porchivina,  
Kyle O'Day, Erin  
Singleton



Carolyn Stang &  
Bob Johnson



Steven Kin, Steve Sadler, Bill Shek



Gerry  
Corwin's  
bomber  
jacket: Lil'  
Nilmerg on  
back



*Thanks to everyone who contributed  
reunion photos!!*



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## AMERICAN VETERANS CEREMONIAL URNS

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At the end of our Memorial Service on Friday, November 2, 2018, an acceptance letter from the administrators of the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery (Marana AZ) and the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery (Sierra Vista AZ) was read (see below). Ceremonial urns (similar to the ones described below) were donated to these two cemeteries on behalf of Everlasting Tree, the Sword family, and the 380th Bomb Group Association.


In 2009, Idaho artist John Sword and his wife Heidi started a small business creating and marketing unique, one-of-a-kind cremation urns. After experiencing the loss of several dear friends and family members, John and Heidi realized that there are limited choices for someone who wants to purchase a beautiful and unique cremation or memorial urn for a loved one. They quickly realized there is a real need and a promising market for these wonderful and unique cremation urns and keepsake memory boxes. This product serves a very special purpose at a time of great loss and sadness for many and has been enthusiastically received thus far.

The urns are donated to veterans' cemeteries and veterans' organizations where they are used during the ceremony for veterans or their families to honor their loved one.


Numerous holes have been drilled in the base of the urn and are plugged with a brass cap. Soil or sand from a battlefield like Omaha Beach or Pearl Harbor is placed there to represent the battlegrounds where veterans fought and so many lost their lives. The leaf on the lid was replicated in bronze from an actual leaf collected from Arlington National Cemetery.



Ralph Sword (right) at Friday dinner with Mary Hamlin & Martha Collins



**STATE OF ARIZONA**  
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
3839 N THIRD STREET  
PHOENIX, AZ 85012  
Tel 602.255.3373 • Fax 602.255.1038  
[www.azdvs.gov](http://www.azdvs.gov)



October 30, 2018

Ms. Barbara Gotham  
380<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association  
& Mr. John Sword  
Everlasting Tree  
Eagle, Idaho

Dear Ms. Gotham & Mr. Sword:

The Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery (AVMC-M) in Marana, Arizona and the Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery (SAVMC) in Sierra Vista, Arizona have each been a recipient of one of your "American Veterans Ceremonial Urn Covers." Joe Larson, the Administrator at SAVMC and I appreciate the donation and attest to the gratitude the families have expressed for their loved one's ceremony.

This urn is not only beautifully designed, it also has a special meaning for what it represents. The bronze leaf replica from Arlington is an honor and the sand or solid from a battlefield within the urn reminds us of the lives lost and those that fought so hard to defend our country. The Ceremonial Urn provides a more dignified committal service for the veteran.

A simple, standard, plastic box (urn) fits easily into the Ceremonial Urn and is easily removed for the cremated remains to be interred. We provide a copy of the picture and information card to each family that is offered the urn. The generosity and respect from 380<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and Everlasting Tree Ceremonial Urns is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all that you do!

Respectfully,

Bonnie L. Dudelston  
Cemetery Administrator  
Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Marana  
*Arizona Department of Veterans' Services*  
15950 North Luckett Road, Marana, Arizona 85653  
[bdudelston@azdvs.gov](mailto:bdudelston@azdvs.gov)

:d



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## *HIDDEN TREASURES by JOLIE BERRIER*

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Both of my parents were of the "greatest generation": my mom worked in a bomber plant in Nebraska during the war and my dad was an Army Air Corps officer with the 442nd Troop Carrier Division, stationed in England and later France and Germany. In 2012, my elderly parents in California finally agreed to move from their house into assisted living. Mom was in hospice and Dad's memory was starting to falter. While moving furniture out of their home, my mother asked me to store and keep her father's WWI footlocker. When I asked about the contents she brushed my question aside and moved on to other issues. Eventually the foot locker was put on a truck, contents and all, and shipped to my home in Washington State.

Approximately six months later I decided to open the chest and examine its treasures. Little did I realize that doing so would allow me to create this narrative. Buried amongst the reams of sewing fabric were photos of a serviceman from WWII, as well as letters, maps, and photos of B-24s. Scanning the contents I learned that an airman who died in the war was a friend of my mother from the University of Nebraska, and that my mom researched the story of his loss nearly 50 years later. His name was Robert K. Oswald.

In early 2013 I visited my ailing mother; although weak from a lung infection, her mind was still quite sharp. Quietly I asked, "So who was Bob Oswald?" She realized I'd found the items in the trunk and promptly hung her head in a sheepish sort of way. My mom looked up and said, "Oh Bob; Bob could light up a room when he walked into it." She told me that Bob Oswald was a navigator on a B-24 that crashed in 1945 in Southeast Asia only a few months before the end of the war. One of the letters she received from her research indicated that Bob decided at the last minute to fly an extra mission (not with his normal crew) so that he could get home sooner to be with his sweetheart. I then asked Mom if she was Bob's sweetheart. "No," but I wish I had been" she replied wistfully. I asked no more questions knowing my mom was very tired and ill, and that I'd uncovered a private sadness in her past. This was the only opportunity I had to talk to my mother about Bob; a week later, she passed away.

By late 2015, my unconscious 94-year-old dad was in hospice so I was back in California sorting through paperwork and making decisions about my parents' belongings and his care. Going through his file cabinet I discovered a red folio with a big "N" on it. I was about to put it in the discard pile but something compelled me to open it. Inside it was a recent letter addressed to my mom from a graduate student at the University of Nebraska thanking her for the Robert K. Oswald Memorial Endowment Fund. In my weary state I suddenly remembered the old foot locker and its contents. My mother never told me about the scholarship and the thought crossed my mind that in my

mother's search for answers to Bob's passing, she took her sorrow and loss and used it for a good cause. And by doing so, she created a legacy for herself and for the memory of Robert K. Oswald. I don't know whether my dad ever knew of Bob Oswald or the scholarship that my mother created in his name; my dad passed away within the week of my finding the red folio.

This past year I've thoroughly examined the contents of the foot locker. I learned that my mother first began researching the loss of Bob Oswald in the late 1980's by writing to Tommy Thompson, then President of the Flying Circus Association. Mr. Thompson provided Glenn Horton Jr's address and Glenn in turn provided names and addresses of Bob's original flight crew; my mother apparently wrote to some of them. Beautiful letters received from Bob Oswald's fellow crewmembers Bob Lively and John Otto gave her insight into why Bob took that last and fateful mission. Her research included letters to and from the State Department and eventually led her to a grave marker in the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky, where Bob Oswald was buried with other crew members who died alongside him. Apparently my mother actually went to Kentucky to a flag on his grave, as evident of the photo Bob's gravestone amongst her papers.

Robert K. Oswald was a Second Lieutenant with the 380th Bombardment Group, 5th Air Force Division. On June 12, 1945, he was reported missing in action over Saigon French Indochina after the B-24 he was navigating was shot down. In December 1945 he was reported dead and in April 1946 his parents in Aurora, Nebraska, received his posthumous Purple Heart. There is a plaque honoring his memory in Aurora, Nebraska, in addition to the one where he is buried in Louisville, Kentucky. Bob was 23 years old upon his death.

Without Glenn's initial help in connecting Bob's former crew members to my mother 25 years ago, there would probably be little record of Bob's life and passing. And had it not been for these few letters, photographs, and clues that my mother saved in her father's foot locker, I would never have known or been able to share this remarkable story. It's the story of Robert K. Oswald's sacrifice to our country and the lifelong regret over his loss that inspired my mother to learn more about him and honor him with a generously endowed scholarship at their alma mater – over 50 years after he died. This scholarship has never had a story behind it until now; I hope that every recipient of the Robert K. Oswald Memorial Endowment Scholarship at the University of Nebraska will now hear this story and give thanks to Bob for his service, and to my mother, for her admiration of Bob and her desire to honor him in this way.

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## HIDDEN TREASURES (continued)

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*This is dedicated to the memory of Robert K. Oswald and all the members of the 380th Bombardment Group in WWII. These were young men who found, in themselves and in each other, the courage to fly in the thin blue skies halfway around the world to fight for the homeland they loved. America can forever be proud of their contribution to the cause of freedom.*

*Jolie Berrier is the daughter of Ellen Berrier; Ellen was a friend of Bob Oswald in college and who later researched his combat missions and subsequent death along with the help of Glenn Horton, Jr.*



Bob Oswald's gravesite in  
Louisville, Kentucky

Robert K. Oswald, 1945  
529th Squadron  
Navigator, Lively's Crew and  
Long's Crew



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### MAIL CALL #1

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Jan 20 and Jan 22, 2019 from Richard ("Rick") Kee:

Some 529th photos appeared for sale recently on ebay.  
I can't paste them here because of ebay constraints but a few of them read as follows:

B24 Liberator Heavy Bomber (possibly "Dream Gal")  
529th Bomb Squadron  
380th Bomb Group  
Lt. Charles C. Carmichael Pilot  
Benjamin H. Williams Flight Engineer  
1944

Another reads:  
1944  
Arthur J. Gregory  
William S. Stokes  
529th Bomb Squadron  
Darwin Australia

And Lastly:  
529th Enlisted Men's Club Bar  
1944  
Fenton Strip Australia  
(100 mi South of Darwin)

Rick sent the seller the following message on Jan 22:

*Should this photo album not sell, might I suggest that you consider donating it to the 380th Group. I am sure they would appreciate it and perhaps some of the descendents of those pictured will be able to view pictures of their Grandfathers during WWII.*

They responded with the following:

*"Thank you for contacting me. I will give it some thought"*

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***To be continued ... hopefully we'll get to see these photos in next newsletter!***

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Jan 14, 2019



Upon gathering info for my family scrapbook, I found your website. I thought I would email you with info for the TAPS page regarding my uncle. I have also attached a photo. My uncle is 3rd from the left, standing. Sorry, I do not have any other names attached to this photo.

Name: Floyd J. Fontana  
380th Bomb Group, 531 Squadron  
B-24 Liberator Bomber, Embarrassed

Thank you for such a beautiful, informative and heartwarming remembrance of the brave men and women who served. May God bless them all.

...Suzanne Fontana-Bailey

---

## A SECOND CHANCE: WWII TAIL GUNNER FEELS CALLED TO HELP OTHER VETERANS

---

Solon L. Graham, Pilot, Hill's Crew, 528th Squadron, of Clarksburg, Ohio, recently sent in an article he found in the 2018 Veteran's Day issue of THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH. He says in his cover letter:

*Greetings from one of your OLD buddies in The Flying Circus." I'm 96 now, so my airspeed and altitude are slow and low, but under control for the time being....Thank the Good Lord.*

*I am sending you in this interesting article that appeared in The Columbus Dispatch ... in the Veteran's Day edition, Sunday, November 11.*

*Here is a gentleman, Dick Wood, not quite my age, at 93 ... that I have never met or even knew about. It was such a totally surprising line to read that he was in the 380th Bombardment Group, 528th Squadron. I couldn't believe it!! I think you and the rest of this distinguished band will find his "Second Chance" story really worthwhile.*

*Sincerely, Solon ... and wife, Verlla*

After reading this article and deciding it would be of interest to all our members, permission was requested and granted from The Columbus Dispatch to reproduce this article for our readers. Dick Wood was in the 528th Squadron, Gunner, on the Kunz and Duff crews.

To see the original article online, go to <https://www.dispatch.com/news/20181111/wwii-tail-gunner-93-feels-called-to-help-other-veterans>

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By Holly Zachariah (hzachariah@dispatch.com)  
The Columbus Dispatch  
Posted Nov 11, 2018 at 5:45 AM  
Updated Nov 11, 2018 at 5:54 AM

It was supposed to be a special afternoon, a shared experience, when Dick Wood could show his young grandson around the museum and tell him some stories about what it was like to be a tail gunner on a B-24 bomber during World War II.

As they stood there that long-ago day inside the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton and studied a plane just like the one on which Wood flew, one of the men who had been working on the aircraft overheard Wood reminiscing. He asked the veteran if he'd like to climb inside. Wood jumped at the chance.

He recalled what happened next, and he choked up. As he spoke of that afternoon and his eyes filled with tears, it is clear his mind is no longer in his Dublin living room but somewhere else, someplace far away.

"I got inside and my head came up in that bomb bay ..." he paused. "My God, the cordite. I could smell it. The anti-aircraft fire. I could hear it ..."

He collected himself.

"The man standing there knew right away what was happening and he got me out of there," Wood said. At the time, he was embarrassed. The 93-year-old now knows there was no reason to be.

"When you know people died because of what you've done, it's an awful thing, even when the mission is honorable and it has to be done," he said. "What happens

in a war is you become uncivil. And you bury that. The damage of it surfaces in strange ways."

### **Saving lives**

As CEO of Save A Warrior — a nonprofit "war detox" organization that runs a healing retreat for veterans and first responders in rural Licking County — Keith Ritz knows a thing or two about war and its aftermath. And yet, when he met Wood not that long ago, he knew the veteran had much to teach him.

You see, after the military, Wood spent a career as a successful salesman and then business owner. Until the 1980s came along, anyhow. That's when he went through a two-year program to study spiritual guidance and then began a 20-year, second career of counseling those dealing with trauma for free. It was through those years of volunteering to help others (not veterans, specifically, it was mostly people battling addiction) that he came to learn about post-traumatic stress disorder.

Looking back at his own military service, Wood realized that he had suffered, too. He speaks of how his professors at Ohio State University noticed that he couldn't focus in class after returning home from war, and he talks of how he mended by spending a summer at a favorite aunt and uncle's farm in the rolling hills of rural Ross County.

There, he slept under the stars and helped tend to the wheat fields along the banks of Paint Creek. There, he and his uncle would sometimes sit quietly on the porch, each man lost in his own thoughts. There, sometimes they would read poetry together, using the serenity of it all to flush out the remnants of war that Wood didn't even realize were hidden inside him.



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## A SECOND CHANCE -- DICK WOODS ARTICLE (continued)

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That time, Wood said, was both healing and transformational. And so it was with equal parts awe and emotion that he read a story about Save A Warrior a few months ago in The Dispatch.

He called an old friend — a quiet philanthropist who believes in anonymously improving the world by helping one person at a time — and told him of this program. And now, Wood's friend has given \$250,000 to the organization. Coupled with matching donations, it will help free the organization from the mortgage on the 47 acres in Newark, allowing more funds to be used to help more veterans.

"Dick Wood saw us and understood what we did. This donation means that we can save so many more lives," Ritz said. "And that's all because Dick Wood read a story in The Dispatch and was moved to help."

### Another chance

Not long after he graduated from Columbus's North High School in February 1944, Wood found himself bound for Air Force basic training. With anger in his heart that had simmered ever since the attack on Pearl Harbor two years before, he enlisted because he wanted to honor and protect the country that he so loved.

Quickly, he was in the thick of things. A spot had opened up with an Army Air crew on a B-24 Liberator and they needed a tail gunner immediately.

"Next thing you know, I was 19 years old and on a plane on my way to New Guinea," he said. "I was off and running."

Wood flew 47 combat missions as part of the 380th Bombardment Group's 528th Squadron, mostly as part of what was known as Gen. Douglas MacArthur's "island-hopping" strategy, in which the Allied Forces targeted South Pacific islands that were not as heavily defended by the Japanese.

But after his role in the war was over, a moment came that would change him forever. Headed back to the States in late 1945 or early '46 (troops were rushed off the Okinawa islands in a hurry following a devastating typhoon), Wood and his comrades were aboard a B-24 headed for Hawaii. After the plane refueled in Guam, though, something went terribly wrong. An engine blew, and the plane lost altitude fast.



"We all looked at one another and thought, 'My God, after what we've all been through, now, when we are finally going home, this is it?'" Wood recalled. "We were prepared to die."

The navigator spotted a coral reef below, and told the men they were going to try to crash-land there. They did, and it turned out to be Johnston Atoll, which held a Navy submarine refueling base. Their plane was repaired there, and all the men aboard eventually came on home.

Wood knew the day of the crash, however, that for some reason, he'd been given another chance. He was going to make the most of it somehow. He knew then that he was going to try to make a difference in others' lives.

And so he did. These days, he remains grateful for a life well lived, he says, and does what he can to make sure veterans are remembered and cared for.

He spent 63 glorious years with the love of his life, Margaret, before losing her in April 2013. Their three children, six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren keep him young, he says — well, their company coupled with the hourlong workout he gets in at 6 every morning, the fruit smoothies he makes each day for good health, the painting classes he recently undertook to keep his mind sharp and his daily afternoon meditation to soothe his soul.

He tells stories of his service when he can — a week ago he spent a few hours at a Veterans Day program at an Upper Arlington middle school — and he honors fallen comrades at remembrance services whenever he gets the chance. He hopes it all is enough.

"God's been good to me," he said. "I felt called to help others, and I've tried to do that."



Dick Wood, center, at the 2017 Dayton Reunion (Russ O'Day left, Bill Brew, right)

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## ED CRABTREE

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Wed, Oct 24, 2018

Hi Barbara,

My name is Bill Graham and I am a member of B24 Liberator restoration group down here in Melbourne, Australia. One of our (and yours I believe) longest serving members is a veteran of the 380th's 530 squadron, Ed Crabtree. Ed is now in an aged care facility and doing quite well. He will be 100 next February and we are quietly planning a party for him when the time comes. Fingers crossed!! In his time with the 380th he flew in B24J 'Dottie's Double' as co-pilot to Joe Cesario. He still reads your newsletters and likes to keep up with all the news.

I see that your next and final reunion is coming up soon. I hope that it all goes well and that the 380th association continues on with keeping this important part of the shared heritage of our two nations going. I have included a picture of Ed that I took today holding a book recently published here. There just happened to be lovely shot of his old B24 so I thought it would be a good shot. I'll keep you up to date with the party plans for 2018.

Kind regards and best wishes

Bill Graham



Crabtree, Edwin L. / 530 / (RAAF) / Pilot, Acft Cmdr, Cesario's Crew (52)

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## INTERVIEW REQUEST

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Thu, Jan 3 2019

Hi Mrs. Gotham

I am Samuel Hui, a military aviation journalist from Taiwan. I have studied the raid against Formosa launched by the Fifth Air Force in 1945 for many years, and I noticed that the 380th Bomb Group had played a very important role in driving the Japanese invaders out of my home island. The United States had been a very important partner to the Republic of China (Free China not the Communist one) since WWII. Even until today, the Taiwanese government is still sending the F-16 pilots to be trained in the Luke Air Force Base located in Arizona. I am very likely to visit the state this March to see our pilots training in Luke. If it is possible, I like to interview some old 380th Bomb Group veterans who flew missions over Formosa during the war. Is it possible? I will visit Los Angeles, California, Phoenix, Arizona and Atlanta, Georgia. Hope can talk to any B-24 pilots or crews over those place. Thank you very much!

IF ANY OF OUR VETERANS ARE INTERESTED IN TALKING WITH MR. HUI, PLEASE LET ME KNOW SO I CAN SEND HIM CONTACT INFORMATION.

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## 2019 HOPI CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION DAY EVENT

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Tue, Dec 18, 2018

We had our first planning meeting this morning regarding 2019 Hopi Code Talkers Recognition Day event.

Three main points were decided:

1. Date will be Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at the Hopi Veteran Memorial Center, near Kykotsmovi, AZ. Times tentative between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.
2. Rex Pooyouma will be the featured Hopi Code Talker.
3. Group is wanting to know if 380th BG would be willing to have someone represent association as a speaker. This is heads up to you all.

We will have more information as future meetings get underway. But I wanted to give you all fair advance notification on date and possible guest speaker from 380th BG.

Let me know if you have any other questions too.

Finally, Hanna, Stephanie and I wish you and your family, and all 380th BG members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Regards,

Eugene "Geno" Talas, Manager, Hopi Veterans Services  
E-mail: ETalas@hopi.nsn.us

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Tuesday, April 23, 2019**  
**HOPI**  
**CODE TALKERS**  
**Recognition Day**  
10:00AM — 3:00 PM  
(Mountain Standard Time)  
Hopi Veterans Memorial Center  
Kykotsmovi, AZ  
**Learn Their Legacy**



Lodging: Second Mesa Cultural Center, 4 miles from event. Call (928) 734-2401 to reserve your room at special rate of \$90.00. Mention "2019 Hopi Code Talker" by deadline date of April 20, 2019 to reserve your room reservations at special rate.

For more information or to volunteer, call (928) 734-3461 or e-mail [ETalas@hopi.nsn.us](mailto:ETalas@hopi.nsn.us)

### 380th Members -

It is my hope that I'll be able to attend the 2019 Hopi Code Talkers event on April 23, 2019, especially since the featured talker is Rex Pooyouma, who was a member of the 380th Bombardment Group.

But I'm unable to confirm attendance at this time - and I won't know until we get past the January/February winter months here in Indiana! I have told Geno I'd let him know my attendance by March 1st.

If I'm able to attend, then I would be happy to represent the 380th to say a few words to the event attendees.

If anyone else is interested in attending (and particularly in speaking/representing the 380th!), please let me know!!

Barb Gotham



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## MAIL CALL #2

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November 2018

Barb

Just in case you, or any other 380th members, are interested, the U.S. Mint has a series of bronze reproductions of the Code Talker medals that Congress awarded to the various tribes that had code talkers serving in WW2. The collection includes the Hopi Congressional Medal. They have them in either 1/1/2-inch or 3-inch diameter sizes. I emailed the link to Geno Talas in case he might be interested.

<https://catalog.usmint.gov/medals/code-talkers/#pmax=25.00&pmin=0.00>

The 3-inch version is down toward the bottom of the page.

Bill Shek



Bill Shek purchased the US Mint Hopi Code Talkers Medal (the 3-inch diameter version, which he thinks, was the full size of the original gold medal). Here are photos of the front and back of it. It's solid bronze. Their other version is 1.5 inches in diameter.

10 January 2019

Happy New Year from Darwin Australia! Hope all is well over there.

I spotted these on ebay today and thought they were quite sad but that members might be interested in seeing probably these 380th BG aircraft before they were chopped up. They have no tyres on their front wheels so I am guessing that they are about to get the chop... There are also other B-24s from other Groups in there.

The ebay seller is called 'upallday' and the photos are at :

[https://www.ebay.ie/sch/m.html?\\_ssn=upallday&LH\\_PrefLoc=2&\\_from=R40&\\_trksid=p2499338.m570.l1313.TR12.TRC2.A0.H0.Xnose.TRS0&\\_nkw=nose&\\_sacat=0](https://www.ebay.ie/sch/m.html?_ssn=upallday&LH_PrefLoc=2&_from=R40&_trksid=p2499338.m570.l1313.TR12.TRC2.A0.H0.Xnose.TRS0&_nkw=nose&_sacat=0)

Hope you have a great year!

cheers

Craig Bellamy





528th – Baker, Dexter K., Sr., Aircraft Commander, Baker’s Crew (4), DOD October 14, 2018, Seattle, Washington, reported by his son, Greg Baker

528th – Borgese, Patrick, Communications/Radar Mechanic, DOD July 4, 2000, New York, New York, reported by his daughter, Patrice Borgese

528th - DiDomenico, John M. (“Mike”), son of John S. DiDomenico, DOD August 5, 2018, Gretna, Louisiana, reported by his widow, Holly

528th – Lehigh, David L., Bombardier, Boeshaar’s Crew (4), DOD May 1, 2015, reported by his daughter, Anita Mitchell

528th – Lehigh, Marie, Widow of David L. Lehigh, DOD May 1, 2017, reported by her daughter, Anita Mitchell

528th/529th - Craig, Alice Picton, widow of Douglas S. Craig, DOD September 9, 2018, Houston, Texas, reported by Tristan Lorraine

529th – Carlage, Fred D., Navigator, Ivey’s Crew (40), DOD June 1, 2018, Woodstock, Connecticut, reported by his grandson on Facebook

529th/Group - Fain, James E. (“Jim”), Ground Staff, Intelligence Officer, April 14, 2012, Savannah, Georgia, TAPS found during internet search

529th – Freeh, William S., Gunner, Watkins’ Crew, DOD October 2, 2016, Hudson, Florida, reported by his son, Greg Freeh

529th – McIntyre, Daniel Edison (“Eddie”), Bombardier, Janssen’s Crew, DOD January 14, 2009, Tampa Bay, Florida, reported by his nephew, Edison McIntyre

530th – Batcheler, C. Garnet (Meenan), widow of Frederick A. Batcheler, DOD November 5, 2003, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, reported by her grandson, Andrew Juris

530th – Juris, Nancy E. (Batcheler), daughter of Frederick A. Batcheler, DOD August 29, 2017, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, reported by her son, Andrew Juris

530th – Norstrom, Milton D., Bombardier, Lutsey’s Crew (87), DOD March 19, 2015, Dolton, Illinois, reported by his son, Scott Norstrom

530th - Struck, Dewey W., Radio Operator and Waist Gunner, Bratton’s Crew (21), DOD February 8, 2018, Eastland, Texas, reported by his daughter, Traci Struck

531st - Annesser, August John (“John”), Ground Staff, Operations Clerk, DOD July 11, 2017, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, returned mail

531st - Fontana, Floyd J., Gunner, Perry’s Crew, DOD December 29, 1982, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, reported by his niece, Suzanne Fontana-Bailey

531st/530th – Stoddard, Daniel E., Gunner, Perry’s Crew (531st) and Montiverde’s Crew (530th), DOD December 2, 2017, Staten Island, New York, reported by his son-in-law, Steve Reynolds

SQDN UNKNOWN - Faircloth, Junior Jenkins (“Jay”), Supply Technician, DOD May 4, 1976, Durham, North Carolina, reported by his daughter, Cindy Brochure



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## NOTICES

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**Looking for an address and/or email for a member of this association? Please contact Barbara Gotham (contact info given below in HOW TO REPORT TAPS).**

If you have any inquiries, requests, or other information you would like to relay to other 380th Bomb Group Association members, please write to: Barbara Gotham (see contact info below).

Also, if you have any information pertaining to any of the mail calls in any issue of THE FLYING CIRCUS, you can respond directly to the person inquiring (if contact info is provided) or to Barb Gotham to pass along to that person.

### **U.S. POSTAGE RATES ARE INCREASING JANUARY 27, 2019!!**

TO REDUCE ASSOCIATION PRINTING AND MAILING COSTS, READERS CAN NOW CHOOSE TO RECEIVE A PDF COPY OF FUTURE NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL (RATHER THAN RECEIVING THE HARD COPY IN THE MAIL). THIS IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED IF YOU USE EMAIL REGULARLY!

If you are interested in this option, please send an email to

380th.ww2@gmail.com

**NOTE: IF YOU CHANGE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND NOTICE OF YOUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS.**

PAST ISSUES OF ALL NEWSLETTERS CAN BE FOUND on our website at:

<http://380th.org/NEWS/News.html#Newsletters>

Membership form is provided in this issue, but you also download a copy from the 380th website at:

<http://380th.org/2019Member-form.pdf>

### **HOW TO REPORT TAPS, SUBMIT ARTICLES, COMMENTS, etc.**

*Please write to:*

Barbara Gotham  
380th Bomb Group Association  
130 Colony Road  
West Lafayette IN 47906-1209 USA

Or send email to: 380th.ww2@gmail.com

Or go to this web link and submit the form:  
<http://380th.org/form.html>

### **FACEBOOK**

Join the discussion and post photos!  
Search for the group *380th Bombardment Group (5th AF, WWII)* or go to  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/380th/>

To post obituaries and memorials, please use our *In Memoriam FB page*:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1686408651610839/>

Looking for a gift for that special someone? Please consider 380th gear!

Limited quantities of items are in stock. Once the current supply of **jackets, caps, and t-shirts** runs out, future orders of these items will only be re-stocked on a per order basis. Please allow 6-8 weeks for re-stocking and shipping of these items.

Check out the order form in this issue and on our website at:  
<http://380th.org/Gear2019.pdf>





*This Newsletter is Dedicated to All the Men of the  
380th Bombardment Group (H) in World War II*

*with special thanks to*

*Forrest E. (Tommy) Thompson, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.) and Helen H. Thompson  
who had the foresight, perseverance, and love of the 380th Bombardment Group (H) and its history,  
traditions, and personnel to organize, succor, and guide the  
380th Bombardment Group Association, Inc. (our predecessor organization, from 1982-1999)*

*and to Theodore (Ted) J. Williams*

*for his dedication to preserving the 380th's history and for continuing the work of the  
Thompsons in guiding our current organization from 1999-2006*

*and to Thomas (Tom) M. Hunt*

*for his support, guidance and commitment to the 380th Bomb Group Association during his lifetime.*

*Our everlasting thanks and love go out to them all.*

**380th Bomb Group Association**  
**GEAR ORDER – JANUARY 2019**

**PATCHES**

(Mark on line # requested)

**Squadron/Group patches:**

**\$10.00 ea.**

Group: \_\_\_\_\_ 528th: \_\_\_\_\_

529th: \_\_\_\_\_ 530th: \_\_\_\_\_

531st: \_\_\_\_\_ **(limited supplies available)**



Group-6"x4-1/2" 528th-5"x5"



529th-5"x5"



530th-4-3/4"x4-3/4" 531st – 5-1/2"x4-3/4"



**Wings patches:**

**\$3.00 ea.**

Pilot: \_\_\_\_\_

Navigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Bombardier: \_\_\_\_\_

Gunner: \_\_\_\_\_

Air Crew Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: 3-1/8" x 1-1/4"



Pilot



Navigator



Air Crew



Bombardier



Gunner

**REUNION PATCHES**

**\$3.00 ea. Size: 4-1/8" x 3/4"**

Tucson/2018: \_\_\_\_\_

Older: Year \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_



**RAAF wings patches:**

**\$3.00 ea. (limited supplies available)**

RAAF: \_\_\_\_\_

Navigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Bombardier: \_\_\_\_\_

Engineer: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: RAAF4-1/4" x 1-1/2"

Others: 3-1/2" x 1-1/4"



**Tucson 1942-1999 patches:**

**\$2.00 ea.**



Size: 4-1/2" x 5"

**CAPS, \$7.00 ea. (mesh, solid bill)**

**One size: \_\_\_\_\_**

**(limited supplies available)**



**Shoulder patches:**

**\$4.00 ea.**

5th Air Force: \_\_\_\_\_

USAAF: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: 3" round



5th Air Force



USAAF

**NEW: 1981-2018  
Commemorative  
Reunion Patch  
\$10.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_**

Size: 3-1/2"x5-1/2"



**JACKETS (long sleeves)**

**Blue nylon, \$20.00 ea.**

Small \_\_\_\_\_ Medium: \_\_\_\_\_

Large: \_\_\_\_\_ XL: \_\_\_\_\_



Back



Front

**T-shirts (short sleeves)  
Blue cotton/polyester,  
\$8.00 ea.**

Medium: \_\_\_\_\_

Large: \_\_\_\_\_

XL: \_\_\_\_\_

(Logo on shirt front only)



Front



Closeup of logo on front

Limited quantities of items are in stock. Once the current supply of **jackets, caps, and t-shirts** runs out, future orders of these items will only be re-stocked on a per order basis. Please allow 6-8 weeks for re-stocking and shipping of these items.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Mail to: Barbara Gotham, 130 Colony Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1209 USA**

*Cash or checks only, made payable to: 380th Bomb Group Association (no credit cards)*

*If you have a PayPal account, you can transfer your payment using the Send & Request Tab –PayPal email account: bjgotham@gmail.com (Note: You still need to mail or email the completed form in order to get the gear you want!)*



# 380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

## 2019 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION INFORMATION

New \_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WWII Squadron (528<sup>th</sup>, 529<sup>th</sup>, 530<sup>th</sup>, 531<sup>st</sup>, Group, or RAAF) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/Zip/Country \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

380th Duty (if known, e.g., Gunner, Crew Chief, Mechanic, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate box(es):

**To reduce printing and USPS mailing costs, we recommend you get your newsletter (PDF) by email:**

☐ **380<sup>th</sup> Veteran**

☐ **Please send my FLYING CIRCUS newsletter by email**

☐ **380<sup>th</sup> Wing Member**

☐ **I'd prefer to receive a hard copy of the newsletter**

☐ **Family Member of 380<sup>th</sup> Veteran** Name of Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship to veteran \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Other** If other, please explain here why you wish to join the group \_\_\_\_\_

An annual donation of \$25 (or whatever amount your budget allows) payable to **380th Bomb Group Association** will help defray costs of newsletters, mailings and the website throughout the year. (Cash or checks only, no credit cards.) Please mail your donation and registration form to:

**Barbara Gotham  
130 Colony Road  
West Lafayette, IN 47906-1209 USA**

*Cash or checks only, made payable to: 380th Bomb Group Association (no credit cards)*

**Note:** If you have a PayPal account (recommended for our Australian and other overseas members), you can transfer your donation using the Send & Request Tab –

use Barbara Gotham's PayPal email account: [bjgotham@gmail.com](mailto:bjgotham@gmail.com)

If you send a donation by PayPal, you still need to send the completed form by mail (to address above) or email the information to [380th.ww2@gmail.com](mailto:380th.ww2@gmail.com) to get on the newsletter/reunion mailing list.

Join us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/380th/>