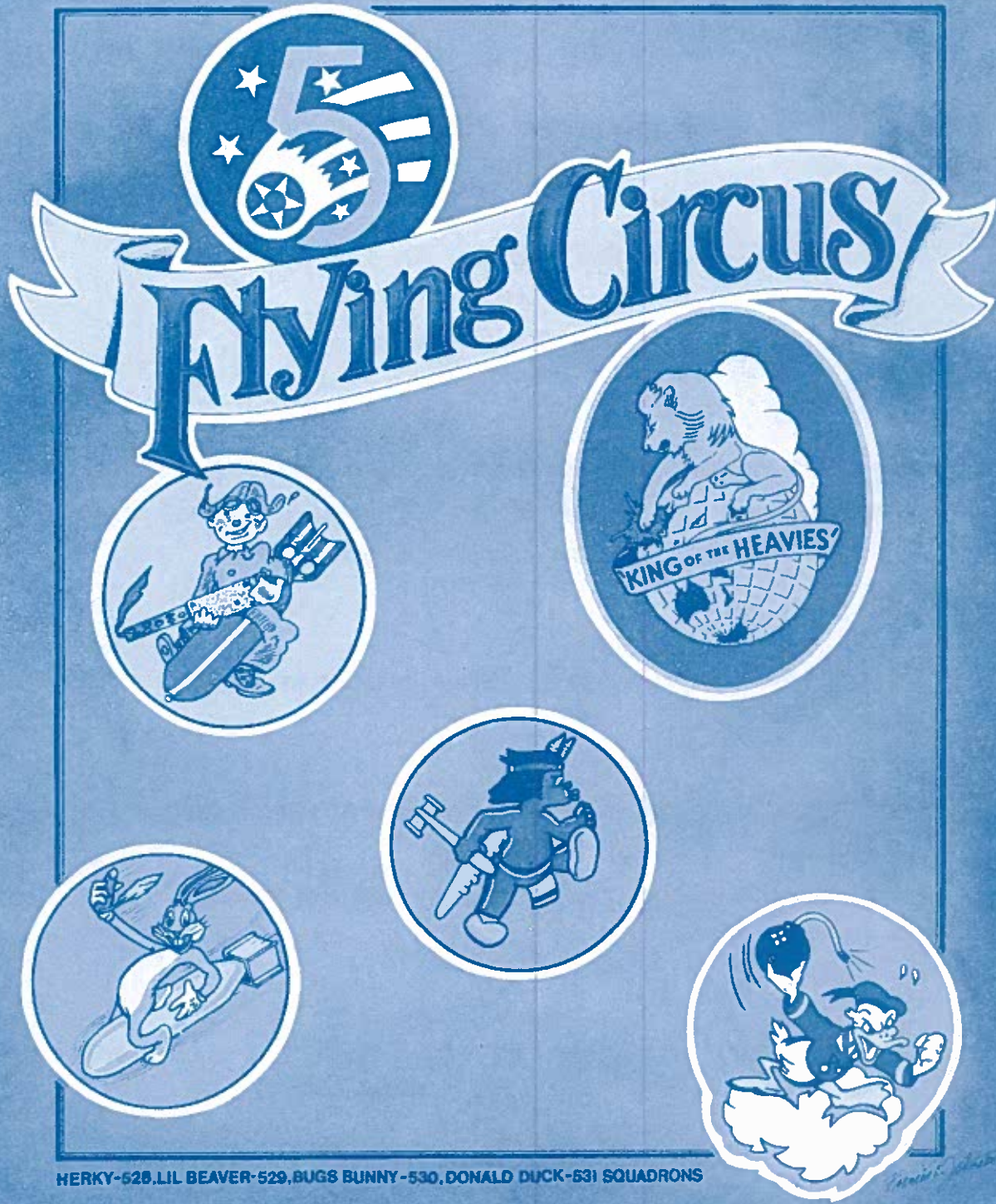


380TH BOMB GROUP



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

Francis Hanston

This Newsletter is Dedicated to:

*Forrest E. (Tommy) Thompson, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)
and
Helen H. Thompson*

*They had the foresight, perseverance, and love of the 380th
Bombardment Group (H) and its history, traditions, and person-
nel to organize, succor, and guide the*

380th Bombardment Group Association, Inc.

*our predecessor organization, for the past eighteen years
(1982-1999).*

Our everlasting thanks and love go out to them.

THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION 5th AF - RAAF

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

The Flying Circus

208 CHIPPEWA ST.
WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47906-2123



HISTORIANS

Glenn R. Horton, Jr.
Gary L. Horton

HISTORIAN, AUSTRALIA

Bob Alford

EDITORS, HISTORY PROJECTS AND QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Barbara J. Gotham
Executive Secretary
Theodore J. (Ted) Williams
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Phone: 765/494-7434
Fax: 765/494-2351
Email: tjwil@ecn.purdue.edu
[http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/
IIES/PLAIC/380/380.html](http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/IIES/PLAIC/380/380.html)

NEWSLETTER #14

March 2003

Compatriots and Friends:

We start a New Year amid a fast-gathering war storm in the Middle East and ever-growing concern over the Terrorist Threat. From our own experiences, we know that any war is terrible to contemplate. But our past service to our nation, even if long ago, as ours was, tells us that we must support and defend our country, its flag, and our Constitution as well as the decisions of our elected leaders. We hope everything works out to the best for America.

Early information on the Williamsburg Reunion, including the Hotel Reservation form and our Schedule of Events, as currently scheduled, is given in this issue. We hope you all can be there. This Reunion, like the last one at Salt Lake City, will include a raffle or lottery of an A-2 Jacket, by Andrew Martinez.

Bob Alford, our Australian Historian, has sent us information on their memorialization of the crash site of MILADY near Darwin. The Australians still remember the 380th with fondness.


George B. Welsh, of the B-24 Liberator Society, has called our attention to the program to place a model B-24 (similar to that at the Air Force Academy) in Balboa Park in San Diego. Please consider supporting this effort.

We join all of America in mourning the Columbia astronauts. Our heartfelt condolences go out to their families at this sad time.

See you all in Williamsburg!

To preserve the memory of the 380th.

Sincerely,


Theodore J. (Ted) Williams

CONRADO AND ANDREW MARTINEZ

As most of you know, S/Sgt Conrado H. Martinez served as Assistant Radio Operator, Gunner on the Ross/Handorf, Connery and Gardner Crews of the 530th Squadron of the 380th. His son, Andrew, painted him a very beautiful A-2 Jacket which was the talk of our Reunion at Tucson. As you also know, Andrew established a project to hold a raffle on another A-2 jacket for our Salt Lake City Reunion and offered to paint this jacket as the winner desired. John Carroll of Australia was the winner and his jacket is now being prepared. Andrew has further offered to provide another jacket for a further drawing to be held at the Williamsburg Reunion.

In honor of Conrado's service in the 380th and Andrew's memorialization of this with the Jacket Project, we have taken the step to name both of them as Honorary Members of our Association. We know that everyone will heartily agree that this honor is most deserved.

LIST OF 380th BOMB GROUP HONORARY MEMBERS			
F. Lee Brissey	Glenn R. Horton, Jr.	Andrew Martinez	Kirsten Tedesco (PIMA Museum)
Patricia Carnevale	Gary Horton	Conrado H. Martinez	Helen H. Thompson
Barbara J. Gotham	Dick Iverson	Bill Moran	George E. Welsh (B-24 Liberator Club)

WINGS OF FREEDOM TOUR -THE COLLINGS FOUNDATION

We received the following email from Don Daniels of The Collings Foundation in Houston, Texas, which we think may be of interest to our members. We have complied with his request and have furnished him with a list of our members from Texas. The Houston show dates are March 31 (3 pm) to April 2, 2003 (1 pm), at Ellington Field. Other tour dates can be found at: http://www.collingsfoundation.org/cf_sch-wof2003.htm

My name is Don Daniels. The son of one of your B-24 crewmembers referred me to your site.

I am a volunteer for The Collings Foundation in Houston Texas. We fly a restored B-24 Liberator around the United States as part of our annual 'Wings of Freedom' tour to honor the men who flew these aircraft into combat during WW-II.

Our B-24 is painted as 'Dragon and His Tail' and is the only flying true B-24 that I am aware of. You can see a photo on our web site at: <http://www.collingsfoundation.org>.

I am searching for surviving crewmembers of the many B-24s flown during WW-II that live in or around the Houston area. I am hoping to invite them to view the arrival of our B-24 in Houston. I am arranging for media coverage to interview the men so they have an opportunity to tell their experiences.

I would also like to invite your crewmembers wives, children and grandchildren to visit with the veterans.

We are a non-profit group volunteering our time to honor these men as our 'Heroes' and their aircraft as a national and historic treasure. We will also be flying our B-17 Flying Fortress painted as 'Nine-O-Nine' and our B-25J Mitchell 'Tondelayo'.

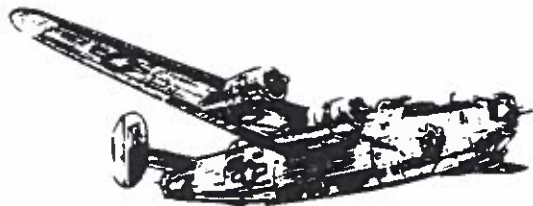
I would appreciate any assistance you could provide in locating these men. Please feel free to provide a link to our web page for your members to view our B-24 Liberator, 'Dragon and His Tail'.

Sincerely, Don Daniels

If you plan to attend, please contact Don Daniels by email at mississippi_bayou_boy@yahoo.com, or call him at 281-416-7165. He also asks that if you plan on visiting the aircraft, to look him up, so he can shake your hand and say "thank you" for serving our country!

B-24 MEMORIAL

Those of you who attended our Memorial Service at the U.S. Air Force Academy on June 18, 2001, or visited the Academy at other times, will remember the bronze B-24 featured on the Honor Court. The San Diego Veterans Memorial Center and Museum is procuring a similar B-24 exhibit and is soliciting funds for it as noted in the letter below and contribution form on the next page. Your consideration of this project is most appreciated. If any place in the world needs a B-24, it is San Diego where most of the 380th B-24s were built.



B-24 Memorial SAN DIEGO

MAILING ADDRESS:

B-24 Liberator Club

1672 Main Street, Suite E, PMB-124, Ramona, CA 92065

Tel: (760) 788-3624 • Fax: (760) 789-8911 • Email: b24club@earthlink.net

Veterans Memorial Center & Museum

2115 Park Boulevard

San Diego, CA 92101-4792

Tel: (619) 239-2300 • Fax: (619) 239-7445 • Email: sdvmc@pacbell.net

Dear Editor,

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

George B. Welsh
3rd AF, 15th AF - USAF
*President, B-24 Memorial - SD
B-24 Liberator Club*

Bng.Gen Robert L. Cardenas
USAF (Ret)
44th BG, 2nd AD, 8th AF

Col. Richard C. Baynes
USAF (Ret)
*Treasurer, B-24 Memorial - SD
465th BG, 2nd AD, 8th AF*

Col C. N. "Bud" Chamberlain
USAF (Ret)
489th BG, 2nd AD, 8th AF

Maj James Kieman
USAF (Ret)
*8th AF, 15th AF
B-24 Liberator Club*

Tom Splitgerber
*Executive Director -
Veterans Memorial Center
& Museum, San Diego, Calif.*

Michelle Welsh
*Secretary, B-24 Memorial
B-24 Liberator Club*

*B-24 Memorial - San Diego
is an outreach program of the
Veterans Memorial Center &
Museum, San Diego, Calif.
A non-profit 501 (c)(3) public
benefit corporation.*

The *B-24 Memorial - San Diego* committee is raising funds to build a B-24 memorial in the birthplace of the *Liberator*, San Diego, California. This memorial will honor those who built and flew the Consolidated B-24 *Liberator* and her sisters, the PB4Y-1 & 2. We are having a bronze statue constructed with an eighteen foot wingspan. This bronze B-24, identical to the one located at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, will be built by the same sculptor, Robert Henderson.

The B-24 memorial will be located in front of the Veterans Memorial Center, (VMC), in San Diego as the centerpiece of the Veterans Memorial Garden. The VMC is located in the southwest corner of San Diego's historic Balboa Park and is the former building for the old Navy Hospital Chapel.

Support for this project has come from both the City of San Diego and the State of California. The city has provided land in Balboa Park and has obtained funding for the Veterans Memorial Garden from the State of California. San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy and Governor of California Grey Davis, have both pledged their support for this project. The only part that cannot be built with public funds is the B-24 itself.

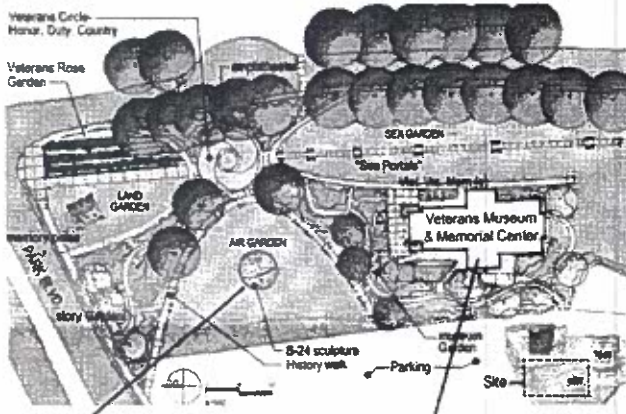
We are asking you to help us spread the word about the B-24 memorial to your members by publishing this letter and application form in an upcoming issue of your newsletter. We realize the amount of space needed to run this information in your newsletter is considerable, but I'm sure you'll agree that it's a worthy cause.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this tremendous project and thank you in advance for your support.

Most Sincerely,

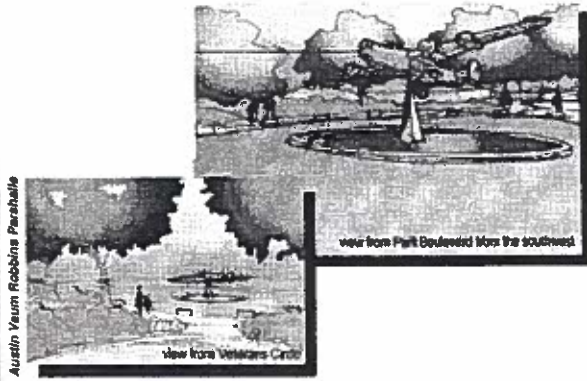
George B. Welsh
*B-24 Liberator Club
B-24 Memorial - San Diego*

B-24 Memorial SAN DIEGO



B-24 Memorial

San Diego Veterans Memorial Center



Send Tax Deductible Contributions to:
B-24 Liberator Club/ B-24 Memorial
1672 Main Street, Suite E-124
Ramona, CA 92065

B-24 Memorial – San Diego Application Form

Print name, rank or position, and branch of service or company.

(Example: Robert A. Smith, T/Sgt. USAAF - or - Robert A. Smith, Manager, CAC)

Name: _____

Print military unit or civilian company that you wish your name to be printed under.

(Example: Consolidated Aircraft Corporation - or - 455th Bomb Group (H), 15th AF)

Military unit or civilian company: _____

Check one of following if you wish it included after name: POW; MIA; KIA

Your name (If different from above): _____

Street address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel. number: (_____) _____ - _____ Fax: (_____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

Amount of contribution. \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **“B-24 Memorial – San Diego”**

(A receipt will be mailed for every contribution as required by the IRS to make you eligible for an itemized deduction under Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the Federal Tax Code.)

Please check level of donation:

_____ **\$500.00 or more:** Name to be placed on B-24 Memorial; plus all below.

_____ **\$100.00 or more:** Name listed on Donor Honor Roll to be placed on permanent exhibit in VMC*, plus all below.

_____ **\$50.00 or more:** Souvenir B-24 Data Plate** and one year free membership to the (VMC) Veterans Memorial Center*.

_____ **Less than \$50.00:** I just can't afford to be a big contributor, but I'd like to help. One year free membership to the VMC*.

* The (VMC) Veterans Memorial Center is located in Balboa Park, San Diego, California, and will be the future home of the bronze B-24 Liberator Memorial. Membership includes six month subscription to the Veterans Journal (San Diego County Edition), which starts following completion of B-24 Memorial.

**The souvenir B-24 Data plate, enclosed in plexiglass, features B/Gen. Robert L. Cardenas, 44th Bomb Group.

Please be sure to send this form to the address shown on this form, and not to the 380th Bomb Group Association.

MILADY MEMORIAL

On December 18, 2002, the Government of the Northern Territory of Australia held a ceremony on Cox Peninsula near Darwin at the location of the crash of MILADY of the 531st with the crew of 2/Lt Bobby T. Neale. The site has recently been refurbished by the Historical Society. Bob Alford's report on the ceremony follows:

"I am very pleased to report that the ceremony to reopen the site of B-24 "Milady" went ahead as planned on 18 December. The site has had a lot of mitigative work carried out, including clearing of the undergrowth, installation of a pathway throughout the site and a low fence to define the site and prevent vehicles driving into the actual crash site and wreckage. New interpretive signage has been installed at key points throughout the site and I understand Russ Brooks provided drafts of these at the 2002 Reunion of the 380th BG.

There were about 40 people in attendance which is very good for this time of the year and in particular in light of the high temperatures and humidity, the impending Christmas break and the remoteness of the site. I gave a brief introductory speech as the 380th's representative and then introduced the government Minister, The Honourable Kon Vatskalis, who coincidentally is also an officer with No. 13 RAAF Reserve Squadron and who served with the Greek Air Force some years ago.

The Minister gave an excellent presentation, responding to a very appropriate letter from the 380th Bomb. Group President, Tom Hunt, and dedicating the site to the memory of the American airmen who gave such sterling service here during WWII and to all airmen who had paid the supreme sacrifice in protecting our freedoms. I gave some brief tours through the site for the guests and was also involved in being interviewed by the media - the result was very good coverage on all TV channels and in the newspaper. I will send a copy of the newspaper article for your files. In all it was a most fitting ceremony and one that has now raised more awareness of the air war and the role of the 380th BG over northern Australia in WWII. I was very proud to have been involved and particularly as the 380th's representative here."

Bob Alford MPHA

The Minister's Speech Notes and Tom Hunt's letter follow, along with some photographs of the ceremony.

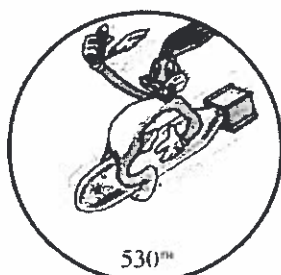
MILADY MEMORIAL

Speech Notes from The Honourable Kon Vatskalis MLA Minister for Infrastructure and Planning and Environment Northern Territory, Australia

WWII Crash Site B24 Bomber “Milady” – Cox Peninsula

- Welcome – Ladies and Gentleman, staff from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, the media.
- Today is a very important and special occasion, as we re-open this historic WWII crash site that has been dedicated to the memory of the crew who died here so long ago.
- The USAF B24 Bomber you see before you today has been here for nearly 60 years, and as you’ve heard, was not uncovered until the 1960’s. Attempts to care for this site in the early 80’s and late 90’s were unsuccessful until now.
- The contribution of the Cox Peninsula Community Council to this project – in particular clerk Mr. Graham Watson – deserve special praise as they have undertaken the bulk of works on this site.
- The Americans loved to name their warplanes and “MILADY” as she is fondly known was a US aircraft based at RAAF Base Darwin with the 380th Bombardment Group. Hundreds like her operated from Australian bases attacking Japanese military targets during WWII.
- On the 17th January 1945, “MILADY” crashed here during a routine training mission, killing all 6 of her crew.
- This site now stands as a reminder of the tragic loss of life in the defence of Australia by our allies. It is a declared heritage site.
- Recognising the importance of this site, the Martin Government sought to improve the area and make it a place everyone could share.
- In a Government funded project worth almost \$15,000, the Cox Peninsular Community Council undertook clearing, fencing and installed interpretative signage and a walk path around the site... and I think you’ll all agree they’ve done a wonderful job!
- The 380th Bomb Group remain an active unit in America today and when we told them of our intentions to improve this area, they were thrilled and have sent a letter to be read out to you all today.... (Tom Hunt’s Letter)
- I’d now like to thank you all for coming today and declare this site re-opened and invite you all to tour the site... (CUT RED RIBBON – HOLD FOR CAMERAS)

MILADY MEMORIAL



THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION 5th AF - RAAF

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

The Flying Circus

208 CHIPPEWA ST.
WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47906-2123

Honourable Kon Vatskalis MLA

Today as this site is officially opened, I offer a few thoughts for USAAF personnel who served in Australia during the years of 1942-1945 and I shall focus on the 380th Bomb Group.

The Group was formed 21 November, 1942, and with a few months of training, the Group was sent to Northern Australia and assigned to RAAF. It flew its first all 380th crew mission on 9 May, 1943 and 2 February, 1945 was the last mission flown from Australia. The Unit still exists and today operates as the 380th Wing.

This day evokes memories of the friendships that were forged between RAAF and 380th Bomb Group personnel during the months of operation from Australia and which continue today. The experience was unique in that RAAF and USAAF personnel flew combat missions together.

It is fitting that this site is a memorial to Lt. Bobby T. Neal and his crew. However, after today the site becomes a remembrance for all.

We, the members of the 380th Bomb Group Association will think of all of our comrades and thank you for this recognition.

HISTORIANS

Glenn R. Horton, Jr.
Gary L. Horton

HISTORIAN, AUSTRALIA

Bob Alford

EDITORS, HISTORY PROJECTS AND QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Barbara J. Gotham
Theodore J. (Ted) Williams

Phone: 765/494-7434

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Email: tjwil@ecn.purdue.edu

[http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/
IIES/PLAIC/380/380.html](http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/IIES/PLAIC/380/380.html)

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Hunt".

Tom Hunt
President

MILADY MEMORIAL

On December 18, 2002, the Government of the Northern Territory of Australia held a ceremony on Cox Peninsula near Darwin at the location of the crash of MILADY of the 531st; the site has recently been refurbished by the Historical Society. These are photos from that ceremony.



Honourable Kon Vatskalis delivering his speech. He is the Northern Territories Minister for Infrastructure Planning & Environment, which includes the Heritage Division.



Cutting the ribbon: Honourable Kon Vatskalis (left) and Bob Alford (right).



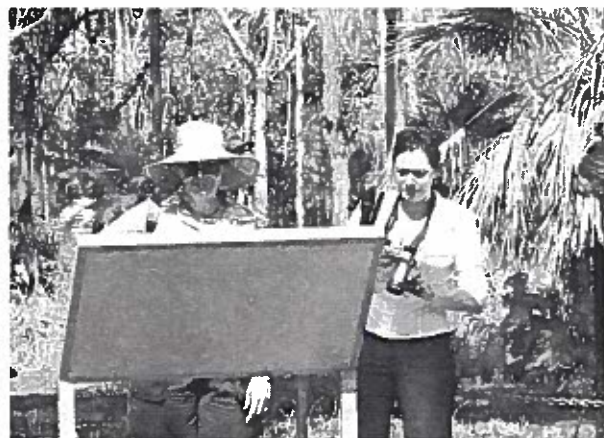
Honourable Kon Vatskalis; the crash site can be seen behind him.



Dale and Ellen Egan; Dale is a local councillor (Cox Peninsular Community Government Council); the Council has taken on the long-term responsibility for the maintenance of the site.



Karen Cooper (left) from the Heritage Branch; she took a personal interest in the site and wrote a paper on the site as part of her university degree. David Ritchie (right), CEO of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, who also had a personal interest in the project. The site is right next to aboriginal lands.



Maree Tetlow (left), CEO of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission. Patriona Malone (right), from the NT News.

380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
2003 REUNION INFORMATION

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
WILLIAMSBURG, VA
SEPTEMBER 10 -14, 2003

Wednesday – September 10

9:00am - 1:00 pm	Registration in Hotel Lobby
12:00pm - 4:00 pm	Optional Tour of Colonial Williamsburg
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open
6:30 pm	Welcome Dinner
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open

Thursday – September 11

9:00 am	Buses depart for Langley Field
10:00 am	Memorial Service at Langley Field Chapel
11:30 am	Lunch at Officer's Club – Langley Field
1:00 pm – 3 pm	Tour of Virginia Air & Space Museum
4:00 pm	Buses return to hotel
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open
	Dinner on your own

Friday – September 12

9:00 am	Optional Tour of Colonial Williamsburg
	Other Optional Tours:
	Visit Plantations in the Area
	Visit Jamestown – America's Home Town
	And Jamestown Settlement
9:00 am – 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open
Approx. 6:00 pm	Militia Retreat Ceremony, your presence is encouraged
	Dinner on your own
	Optional Evening at The Music Theatre
	Music from the 40's to the 80's

Saturday – September 13

10:00 am	Meeting of Members
Noon	Optional tour of Colonial Williamsburg
	Optional cruise on York River
Noon – 6:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open
6:30 pm	No-host cocktails
7:00 pm	Dinner Dance

Sunday – September 14

Departure day

380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
2003 REUNION INFORMATION

HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM
BW Patrick Henry Inn
Williamsburg, VA

September 9-13, 2003

Name _____

Spouse or
Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Rate: \$77 (single or double occupancy) + 9.5% room tax (Total \$84.32 per night)
This rate includes a continental breakfast each morning.

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Room type: S = one person, one bed; D = two people, one bed; D/D = two people, two beds
(Circle Choice)

Special Needs: H=Handicap facilities; N/S = Non-smoking; S=Smoking; K=King bed
(Circle choice)

Guarantee by credit card # _____ Exp date: _____

Signature _____

Name on card _____

Please print

Cancel policy for this event: 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid penalty
Reservations made after August 22 are subject to availability and possible rate change

Please mail or fax reservation form to: Carnevale & Associates, Inc.
P. O. Box 1230
Sonoita, AZ 85637
fax: 520- 455-5866
phone: 800-659-8808
e-mail: carne@dakotacom.net

As full service travel agents, we are also able to assist you with your travel arrangements
including
air and rental cars.

"ONE PHONE CALL DOES IT ALL"
(800) 659-8808

**380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
2003 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM**

Date _____

Your Name _____

Squadron _____ 380th Duty _____

Please check if you are a * Regular Member _____ or an **Associate Member _____

**Associates: 380th Veteran's Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Sqdn: _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Spouse's Name _____

* *Regular member* means an original member of the 380th Bomb Group.

***Associate member* means a family member (or other affiliation) of an original member. If you are an Associate, please give the name of the original member, your relationship to that person, and his squadron number.

Annual payment of \$20 payable to **Carnevale & Associates** will help defray costs of mailings throughout the year. Please mail your registration form and check to:

**Carnevale & Associates
P.O. Box 1230
Sonoita AZ 85637**

Membership runs from Reunion to Reunion.

TAPS

*Day is done, gone the sun, from the lake from the hill
from the sky. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.
Thanks and praise for our days 'neath the sun, 'neath
the stars, 'neath the sky. As we go, this we know
God is nigh.*



LEST WE FORGET

528th Bundy, Howard E., Gunner, Moran's Crew (7), Canandaigua, New York, DOD 02/18/2003, reported by family friend and neighbor, Karen Lewis

528th Casey, Thomas L., Crew Chief, El Paso, Texas, DOD 08/01/2000, reported by Bill Casselberry



528th Clark, Chester (NMI), Flight Engineer, Stovell's Crew (3), Dallas, Texas, DOD 01/01/2003, reported by Tom Isaack

528th Crowe, Curtis W., Armament, Bombsight Maintenance Officer; Executive Officer, Advanced Detachment, Houston, Texas, DOD 12/04/2002, reported by his wife, Ouida Crowe

529th DiMauro, Sebastian F., Radio Operator, Morabito's Crew (41), Wilmington, Delaware, DOD 11/26/1998, reported by his son, Tom DiMauro

529th Conway, F. Richard, Co-Pilot, Toepperwein's Crew (17), St. Paul, Minnesota, DOD 06/1968, reported by his son, Steve Conway

529th Pius, Milton P., Navigator, Selman's Crew, DOD 11/16/2002, reported by Carl Borgstrom

530th Mason, Eileen, Wife of Charles F. Mason, Rochester, New York, DOD 06/18/2002, reported by her husband

530th Rothrock, Royal E., Gunner, Marshall's Crew (63), Elkhart, Indiana, DOD 11/30/2002, reported by his daughter, Linda Rothrock

531st Cantrell, Robert Gene, Gunner, Fowler's Crew (96), Chattanooga, Tennessee, DOD 12/12/1990, reported by his son, Bill Cantrell

Please send TAPS information to:
Theodore J. Williams, 208 Chippewa St.
West Lafayette IN 47906-2123
Phone: 765/494-7434, 765/463-7828

