

781st BOMB SQUADRON | 465th BOMB GROUP | 15th AIR FORCE



# PANTANELLA NEWS

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# 781<sup>ST</sup> REUNION CHARMS CHARLSTON



**Reunion  
Heads North**

Reunion 2014 - Dover, DL





## PANTANELLA NEWS

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#### **Board of Directors:**

President: Orren Lee

Vice President: Earl Leinart

Treasurer: Carole Lee

Secretary: Debbie Cherry

Chaplin: Joseph Soucy

Board Member: Don Muncie

Board Member: Georgia McKinnon

### PANTANELLA NEWS

781st BOMB SQUADRON (H)

Part of the 465th Bomb Gp. 15th AF  
Italy 1944-1945

Flew 191 Missions over Southern Europe  
dropping thousands of tons of death and  
destruction to the enemy. Shot down 25  
enemy aircraft. Received two Presidential  
Unit Citations in Seven Battle Campaigns.



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# President's Letter



What a great reunion! In behalf of the veterans, I want to thank you, Debbie, for all you and your family did to make this a memorable reunion.

I also want to thank Georgia and especially Lance for their work on the Pantanella News. They have been a big part of keeping it going. It is a publication we can be proud of.

We look forward to next year's reunion in Dover, Delaware. Ken Wiggins is already

working on it. Check out his invitation in this newsletter. — Orren Lee



Ken & Liz Wiggins

## Invitation to 2014 Reunion in Dover Delaware



Liz and I are very pleased to invite you to our home state of Delaware this coming autumn for the next 781st Bombardment Squadron reunion. We're making plans for Dover Delaware and we are working with the local visitor's bureau, hotels and attractions to make this one you will enjoy. We have an outstanding Air Mobility Museum at Dover Air Force Base, a large casino, a National Wildlife Refuge, a Colonial State Capital and

more. Delaware was the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution, has no sales tax, and is the second smallest state, where just about everyone knows everyone else. I'm confident you will be warmly received. Details will follow as we establish a date, venues, and costs.

*Ken and Liz Wiggins*

— 781st Bomb Sqdn. Reunion  
Coordinators 2014

## Attendance at 781st Bomb Squadron Association 2013 Reunion

### Charles "Bubba" Braud

Robert Braud  
James Braud  
Charlie, Janie & Alex Braud

### Ray Cauble

Patrick & Phillis Krech

### George Hausold

Veni Hausold  
Glenn Hausold

### Orren Lee

Carole Lee  
Don Munce & Robyn Schoonover  
Alec & Maggie Munce  
Jay & Jill Munce  
Ryan & Amy Munce  
Jessica Munce  
Jamie & Audrey Munce  
Roxanne & Roland Richle

### Earl Leinart

### Marcel Snyder

Dollie Snyder

### Ron Soucy

Greg Soucy  
Rodger Soucy  
Joe & Mary Lou Soucy

### Elliot Sweet

Laurie Bedus

Steve & Maureen Smith  
Debbie & Bill Cherry  
Patricia & Jack Gunter  
Phyllis & Patrick Hegler  
Barbara & Donnie Shumpert  
Georgia & Lance McKinnon  
David, Daniel, Desiree,  
& Damian McKinnon  
Still McIntosh

Anna Russell  
Barney "Bud" & Libby Russell

Diane & Robert Misinkiewicz

Ken & Liz Wiggins

Dottie Wassenaar  
Mona Hirson

# 781st Bomb Squadron Association Business Meeting

November 12, 2013 – 8:30 AM • InnPlace Hotel, Charleston, SC

## Minutes from Business Meeting:

President Orren Lee called the meeting to order. Chaplain Joe Soucy led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation.

President Lee then recognized the registered Veterans and the group honored them with applause.



A motion was made by Phyllis Hegler and seconded by Ken Wiggins to accept the 2012 Business Meeting Minutes as published in the December 2012 PANTANELLA NEWS. The group approved the minutes.

Carole Lee gave the Treasurer's Report and turned over the financial information to the appointed Audit Committee, George Hausold, Glenn Hausold and Bud Russell. Following the audit, it will be filed.

During the Business portion, Don Munce proposed that Lance McKinnon be issued a stipend of \$200 per issue



of the PANTANELLA NEWS. Earl Leinart made a motion and Bubba Braud seconded the motion. The group voted in favor of the motion.

Ken and Liz Wiggins volunteered to plan the 2014 Reunion in Dover, Delaware. Carole Lee made the motion to accept their offer, with Ray Cauble seconding the motion. The group approved the motion.

Glenn Hausold reported the current officers would be their slate of officers for the 2014 year. There were no nominations from the floor and President requested the Secretary to record the unanimous vote.



Earl Leinart gave the report on the 781st Bomb Squadron Endowment Fund.

Carole Lee reported she had been requested to solicit any 781st related patches that anyone would care to donate to Jim Perry, who is currently starting a collection.

Earl Leinart made a request that members consider donating to the Collings Foundation to support the continued use and upkeep of the B-24 plane still in working condition.



# Reunion 2013

## IN PICTURES

### Charleston, SC





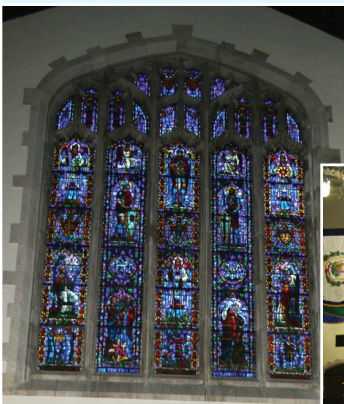




## Orren Lee's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party



## 781<sup>st</sup> Bomb Squadron 2013 Reunion SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN MEMORY OF  
THE CIVILIAN'S PATRIOTIC DEED  
THIS MONUMENT IS DEDICATED







The following article was originally published in the Charlotte Observer newspaper on 5/27/12, and was submitted for publication in the Pantanella News by 781st Associate Member, Sandy Carter.

A World War II plane giving rides to aviation enthusiasts made a bumpy landing Saturday afternoon at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

The landing gear on the B-24 bomber known as "The Diamond Lil" - one of only two such bombers still airworthy - malfunctioned during flight, causing the aircraft to skid down the runway as it landed, officials said. None of the 16 people on board was injured.

The B-24 was among three WWII planes on display and offering rides at the Carolinas Aviation Museum this weekend. A P-51 fighter and the last airworthy B-29 bomber in the world were also brought in by the Commemorative Air Force, a Texas-based nonprofit group that restores and preserves WWII planes. Rides on the B-24 started at \$399.

## Plane Ride Comes to Jarring End

W.E. Carter of Charlotte said he was on the plane when it took off around 3 p.m. Saturday for a 30-minute ride. But as the pilot prepared to land, he said, the crew realized that the landing gear wasn't working. The plane circled for about another hour as the crew cranked the landing gear down by hand.

"They told everybody, 'Tighten your seatbelt,' " Carter said.

Then the pilot landed the B-24 with working landing gears on both wings. But the nose gear collapsed, and the plane slid down the runway, where emergency responders were waiting. The passengers were taken off the plane quickly, Carter said.



Carter, whose father flew B-24s during the war, praised the crew, saying that they did a great job and that he'd had a "fun day."

The incident caused delays at the airport because the runway was temporarily out of operation.

Autumn Hicks, spokeswoman for the Commemorative Air Force, said the crew followed proper safety protocol, allowing the plane to land safely.

"Luckily the pilots were very well trained," she said.

B-24s were extensively used in Europe during the war, first patrolling the Atlantic Ocean against submarines before eventually serving in all theaters, according to the Commemorative Air Force.

The plane suffered minimal damage, Hicks said. Federal authorities will investigate the incident.



Sandy Carter on site

## Kids Thank the 781st



The Strategic Air and Space Museum has presented a Cool Science 2 Go outreach program at the Randolph Elementary and Jr. High School. Students took part in the Super Cool Science and Electricity demonstrations with the aviation themed demonstration. They have sent a thank you to the 781st for our support and helping bring outstanding science education to students.



## 781st "PANTANELLA NEWS"

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