

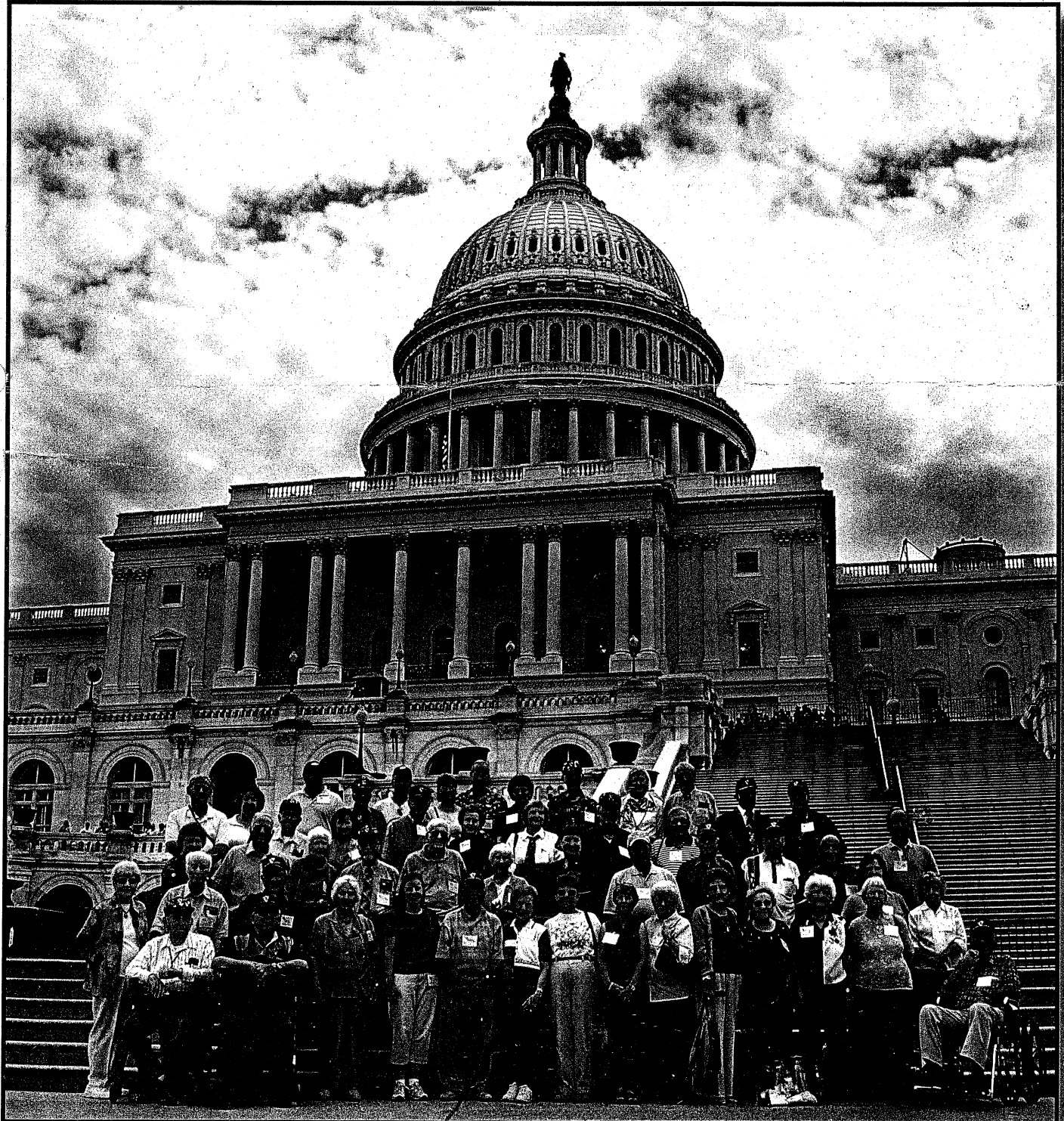


# PANTANELLA NEWS

Published by 781st Bomb Squadron Association©

# 90 January 2008

## DC RECOUPS FROM 781st INVASION CONGRESS SPENDING MILLIONS FOR CLEAN-UP



## Vets, Spouses and families who met with our President in DC (Barney Russell) for the 2007 Reunion

•**Michael J. Althoff**  
Suzanna E. Althoff  
Menlo Park, CA -pg9

•**Frank P. Ambrose**  
Gloversville, NY  
Frank Ambrose II -pg5  
Atlanta, GA

•**Bernard Badler**  
Petaluma, CA --pg8

•**Wilton E. "Sandy" Carter, Jr.**  
Cooper P. Carter -pg9  
Charlotte, NC

•**Michael Deslatte** son of Louis  
Diboll, TX

•**John Fandrey**  
St. Paul, MN -pg8

•**Robert L. Freed**  
Rose Anna Freed  
Meadows Lands, PA -pg9

•**George Hausold**  
Venzina Hausold  
Hernando, FL -pg9

•**William H. Jostworth**  
Mary E. Jostworth  
Cincinnati, OH -pg8  
Thomas C. Jostworth

•**Dale L. Keiser**  
Betty L. Keiser  
Ft. Wayne, IN -pg5  
Patricia L. Childers  
David G. Childers  
Susan D. Espenlaub  
David E. Espenlaub



•**Francis "Ken" Kill**  
Elizabeth "Betty" M. Kill  
Findlay, OH  
Patricia A. Kill -pg3

•**John P. Layne, Sr.**  
John P. Layne, Jr.  
South Pittsburg, TN -pg9  
Helen Layne

•**Albert P. LeBlanc**  
Ronald O. Horne  
Norco, LA -pg5

•**Orren J. Lee**  
Carole J. Lee -pg4  
Sioux Falls, SD  
Don M. Munce  
Ryan P. Munce

•**Earl R. Leinart**  
Grace R. Leinart -pg5  
Omaha, NE

•**C. Phyllis Martin**  
Karen A. Martin -pg4  
Mystic, CT

•**Russell T. Maynard**  
Caroline M. Maynard  
Fredericksburg, VA  
Caroline G. Vadeboncoeur  
J. Paul Vadeboncoeur  
William L. Maynard  
David L. Maynard  
Mary A. Maynard  
Stephen A. Tate pg3  
Jennifer L. Tate  
Tara L. Vadeboncoeur

•**Michael S. McCleary**  
Washington DC -pg3

•**J. Peter Ministrelli**  
West Bloomfield, MI

•**Constance Ogden**  
Candace Tannery -pg5  
Dickinson, TX

•**Dean T. Otto**  
Mary Beth Otto  
Shoreview, MN -pg9  
Kenneth D. Otto  
Sheila R. Otto

•**Kenneth B. Rehn**  
Lois M. Rehn -pg8  
Woodhull, IL  
Teresa A. Carlson  
Ronald C. Carlson

•**Bonnie G. Rowe, Jr.**  
Owana L. Humber  
Atlanta, GA -pg4

•**Barney G. Russell, Jr.**  
Anna H. Russell  
Magnolia, AR -pg4  
Barney G. Russell, III

•**James Marcel Snyder**  
Dollie Hendershot Snyder  
Melbourne, FL -pg3  
James M. Snyder, Jr.  
Gloria Snyder  
Daniel Warren Snyder

•**Roland J. Soucy**  
Rolanda M. Soucy  
Beavercreek, OH -pg8  
Rodger T. Soucy  
Gregory J. Soucy

•**Frank Wassenaar**  
Dorothy Wassenaar  
Alma, MI -pg8

•**John Zadrozny**  
Helen Zadrozny  
Belle Vernon, PA pg4

•**Speaker-** -pg3  
Tech. Sgt Mark Decorte

781st Bomb Squadron Association  
c/o Orren Lee, Pres.  
2312 Braemar Dr.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

### Officers

Orren Lee: President  
Vice President: Bernie Badler  
Ken Kill: Treasurer  
Secretary: Connie Ogden  
Imd Past President: Barney Russell

### Board of Directors

James C. Althoff, President Emeritis  
Frank Ambrose  
Earl Leinart  
Frank Wassenaar

Chaplin: Frank Wassenaar

PANTANELLA NEWS  
Editor: Frank Ambrose

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

**ATTENTION !!**  
**ALL MEMBERS AND FAMILIES**  
**KEEP IN TOUCH**  
**NOTIFY OR CONTACT ANY OR ALL FOR**  
**FW's-NEWS-ADDRESS CHANGES or WHATEVER**

### 781st. Asso. President:- Orren Lee:

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email: <olee@iw.net>

### 781st Asso. Executive Sect:- Carole Lee:

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605 339 1297  
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44 East Blvd.  
Gloversville, NY 12078  
email: <frank@frankambrose.com>

# IT'S DAYTON IN 2008

The venue and date for the 2008 Reunion was made official during the business meeting when Bob Freed made a motion to hold the 2008 event in Dayton, Ohio, Dale Kaiser seconded.

Ron Soucy reported he has made arrangements for October 4th thru the 7th of 2008 at Wright Patterson AFB. Hope Hotel, to hold the reunion there.

The Hope Hotel is the only privately owned hotel operated on Air Force property, a unique arrangement that required an act of Congress. In this manner, both military and civilians have had easy access to the Hope Hotel and the aviation heritage that surrounds it.

Embodying the commitment and laughter that served the troops for half a century, the Hope Hotel is aptly named after Bob Hope.

It's the closest hotel and conference facility to Dayton's Wright Patterson Air Force Base and an easy "drive right in" access.

The Hope Hotel is located in the I-675 corridor, just minutes from Interstates 75 & 70 as well as

downtown Dayton, Springfield, and the Dayton International Airport.

- Four miles from the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

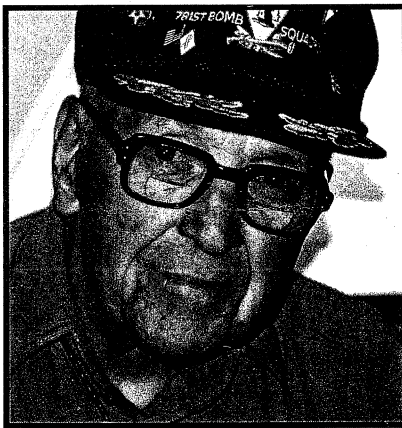
- One mile from Huffman Prairie Flying Field

- Eight miles from Downtown Dayton

- Fifteen Miles from the Dayton International Airport.

Editors note...

The collage of photos appearing in the corners of this page and pages 4-5-8 and 9 are photos of all of the individuals attending the 781st 2007 Reunion. The photos have been randomly composed and are not meant to appear in any particular order.



Ron Soucy--  
2008 Reunion Chairman





## Business Meeting Minutes 781st BS Association

October 10, 2007

The 2007 meeting of the 781st Bomb Squadron Association was held in the Comfort Inn in Arlington, VA, October 10, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 hours by President Barney Russell. Chaplain Orren Lee gave an opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary Orren Lee and approved.

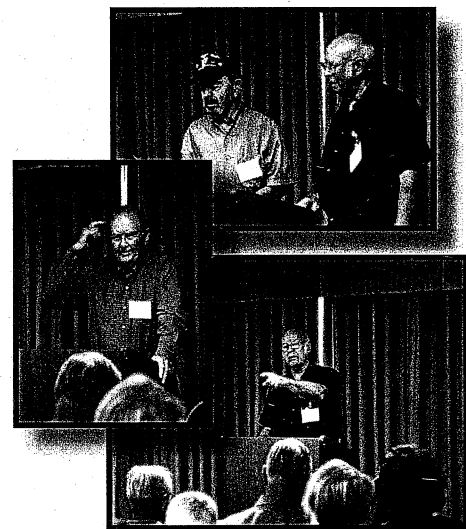
The financial report was given by

Treasurer Ken Kill. The checking account was reported at \$132.44 + cups and caps that have been sold at this reunion bringing the total to \$272.44. The savings account balance is \$39,340.56. The reunion account is \$269.90.

A motion to accept the report was made by John Fandrey and seconded by Bernie Badler.

**Old Business:** The tabled motion to give \$30,000.00 to the SAC Museum to create a scholarship fund was brought back to the floor. Earl Leinart gave a further report on the Strategic AF Museum in Omaha as a place for the funds we have inherited and our memorabilia. He had a proposal for SAC Museum in Omaha to establish a scholarship fund in the 781st name leaving the amount to be decided on by the membership. They would accept our memorabilia, catalog it and store it in climate controlled archival storage area. Regularly the Museum rotates artifacts for public display.

Frank Wassenaar reported on the Air Force Memorial in Washington D.C. and others they had investigated. He reported that none had a program such as SAC. Ron Soucy had investigated Wright Patterson. He reported they would not accept our



memorabilia and that there was not a scholarship program. He does not recommend them as a location for our funds or memorabilia.

John Fandrey requested McCook, NE be looked at. After discussion a motion to table the motion until the next business meeting was made by Bernie Badler. The motion was seconded and carried.

A quorum established at 21 members present.

A motion was made by John Fandrey to amend the Constitution to increase eligibility to any member of a family of the 781st Bomb Squadron that served at Pantanella Air Base in Italy or any person dedicated to preserving the history of the association by paying dues can become an associate member and be eligible to vote and hold office.

The Amendment to Article IV as proposed and published was:  
*Amendment #1*

*All family members of 781st Bomb Squadron Veterans or any person dedicated to preserving the history of the association upon payment of dues shall be considered an associate member and become a voting member and eligible to hold office.*

The motion was seconded and carried.

**New Business:** Honorarium for Executive Secretary was refused by Carole Lee.

**Reunion report:** 21 members attending. With family members there will be 77 for the banquet. Recognition was made of work done by Ken and Betty Kill, Marcel Snyder, Carole Lee and Frank Ambrose. President Barney called for location of 2009 reunion.





Marcel Snyder presented two proposals. 1) Charlotte Zartman will arrange in Phoenix as she proposed in Fairfield, Ca. 2) Ralph Hendrickson has a proposal for a cruise to the Caribbean. He has a price below \$500.00 per person which includes room and meals.

Ron Soucy questioned the location of 2008. President Barney said that was decided last year. President Barney called for any other proposals for 2009. Frank Ambrose suggested no decision on 2009 be made until new members were able to vote on the location. He made a motion to table until then. Seconded and passed.

Frank Ambrose reported the following slate of officers from the nominating committee and made a motion to accept the slate.

Orren Lee for President.

Bernard Badler for Vice President.

Ken Kill for Treasurer.

Connie Ogden for Secretary.

Directors: Earl Leinart, Frank Wassenaar, and Frank Ambrose

As there were no other nominations the slate was elected by acclamation.

Orren Lee, incoming president, requested a new chaplain be appointed.

Barney called for volunteers. Orren nominated Frank Wassenaar.

Seconded and carried.

Earl Leinart and Marcel Snyder questioned tabling the motion regarding the museum. It was overruled by President Barney as he stated the motion was tabled.

Bernie Badler read a letter from Dr. Rapaport greeting the reunion attendees.

President Barney Russell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron Soucy questioned whether it was ever voted on to hold the reunion in Dayton.

Bob Freed made the motion to hold the 2008 reunion in Dayton, Ohio, Dale Kaiser seconded. Ron then reported he investigated holding the reunion in Dayton as the minutes had reported and has made some arrangements for October 4th through

October 7th of 2008 at Wright Patterson AFB. Hope Hotel.

Reasoning that you have to reserve a year and a half in advance for a meal on the museum floor, he did that in case we voted to have our reunion there.

With no further business to come before the membership the meeting was over at 11:00 hours.

*Respectfully,*

*Orren Lee, Secretary.*

## IMPORTANT NOTICE DO NOT PHONE REGISTRY

### Assure against being dropped off the Do-Not-Call Registry

The federal Do-Not-Call list has been in existence for almost five years now. Because registrations are valid for five years, those who signed onto the list in its early days will automatically be dropped off the list beginning in June 2008 unless they enroll again.

For those who are not familiar with this program, telemarketers covered by the national "Do Not Call" Registry have up to 31 days from the date you first register to stop calling you.

Under federal law, your number will stay in the registry for five years, or until it is disconnected, or until you delete it from the registry. You may renew your registration at any time for another five years.

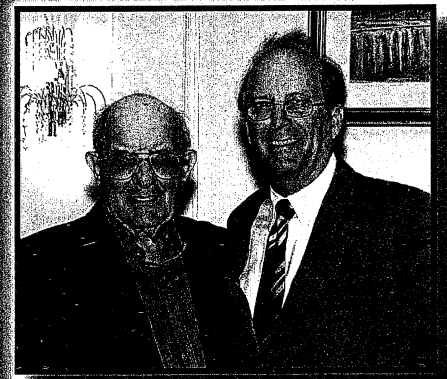
If you changed your phone number, you must also re-register. You are allowed to register cell numbers.

You can check the date your registration will expire by going online to <http://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx> and clicking on "Verify a Registration."

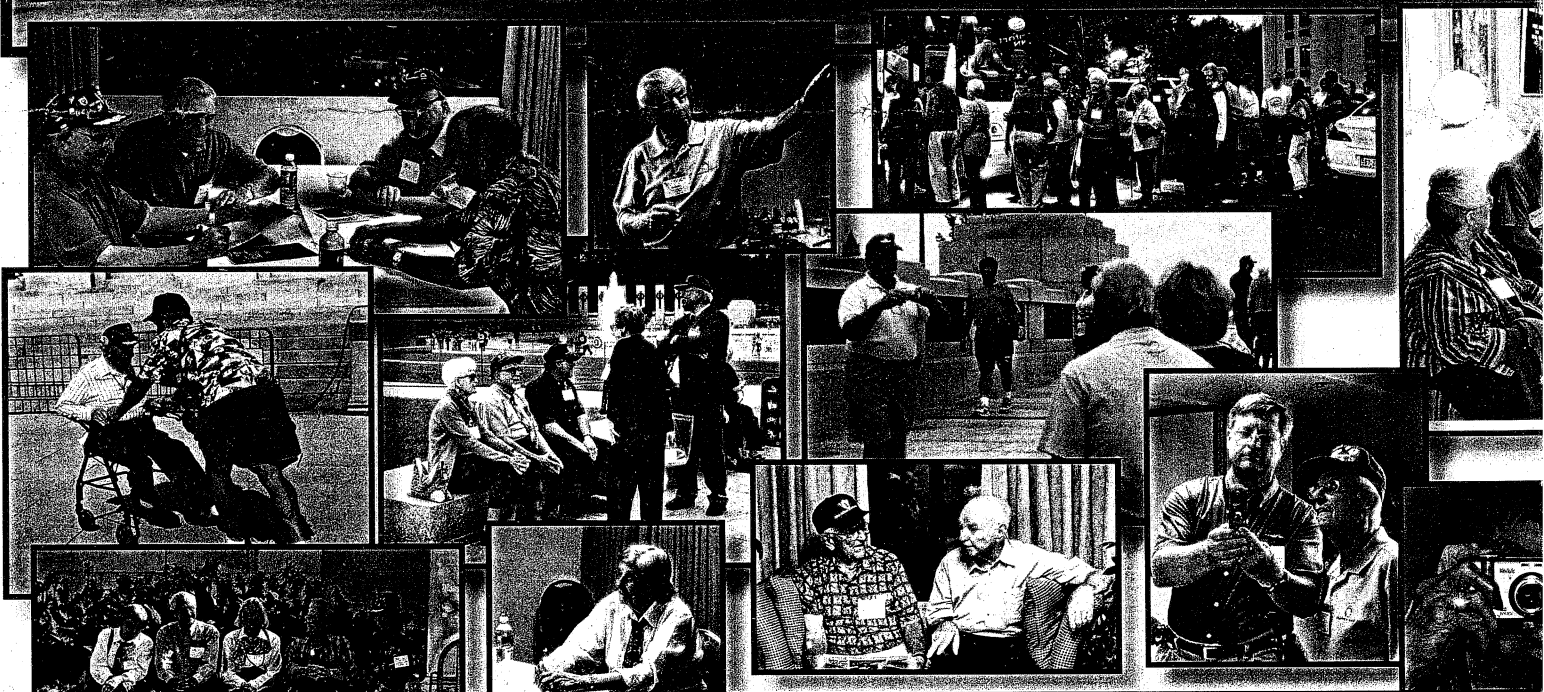
You can renew your registration at any time by clicking on "Register a phone number."

You may also re-register by phone, call toll-free (888) 382-1222, but you must call from the phone number you wish to register.

While there is still time before the June expiration date, it is good to start thinking about re-registering and confirming that you are on the registry.



# TALK ABOUT A KODAK MOMENT-- WOW!!





781st BS 2007 Reunion  
Washington, DC  
Oct 7-10, 2007





## What Do You Talk About At A Reunion...

### "An Easter Egg for Hitler"

I am sure one of the topics talked about was the photo at the right, depicting 781st Ordinance Crewmen posing with a 1000 pounder they were presenting to Hitler for his Easter Basket that year. The photograph appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines around the country during WWII.

To this day the photo still appears in many historical books and on Internet Websites.

The only two men that are still alive shown in the photo are John Zadrozny and Pete Ministrelli. Pete is shown at the far right leaning on the 'Easter Egg' and John appears standing in the rear, third man from the left.



**Connie Ogden caught Bonnie Rowe** in the act of showing photos of his father to Frank Ambrose. Bonnie's father was a "Wing Walker Stuntman" in Air Shows before WWII. Barnstorming across the country before the war, Bonnie related about his life as a young lad watching his

father perform death defying stunts in the air.

It was during one of those performances that the stunt Bonnie's father was performing suddenly went awry and he fell fatally to his death. Rowe was Navigator on the Martz Crew

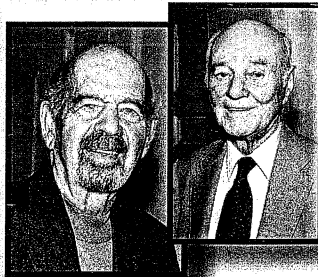


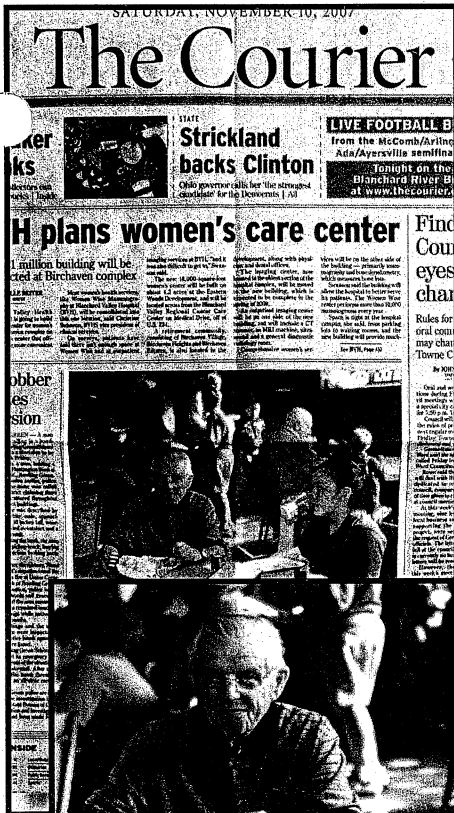
Photo Above;  
**The character sleeping** in the center of this photo is Ron Soucy who is surrounded by his two sons, Greg and Roger asleep and resting on the White House Lawn.

Unseen in the photo and out of camera range, standing under a nearby tree, another individual was scrutinizing my every movement as I moved about to get the right angle to take the photograph.

Wearing a black baseball type billed hat, black jacket and dark glasses, and sporting a rather formidable looking Tommy gun tucked under his arm, he tried hard to appear inconspicuous.

Just because Ron and his sons took the opportunity to sleep and rest on the White House Lawn after that long walking tour of the Capital was no reason for him to become so fidgety.





## 'VETERANS DAY' FINDLAY, OHIO

The school children of Saint Michael's School in Findlay, Ohio honored their local heroes with a 'Special Program and Luncheon' for Veterans Day.

Ken Kill attended the festivities—accompanied by his granddaughter, Makenzie McFee, a fifth grader at the school, and was photographed at a table having lunch together.

Ken was Bombardier on the NB Smith Crew.

The photo appeared on the front page of "The Courier", Findlay's local newspaper.

## Treasure Report

Association Treasurer Ken kill reports that yearly dues are slowly trickling in and urges members to send their dues to him as soon as possible. In addition to the yearly dues of \$10.00, Ken reports that the following individuals have responded far and beyond:-

- Willton E Carter Jr. (Sandy)
- David B. Coleman
- Bernard Badler
- Connie Ogden
- Kenneth Rehn



## The Effect of Drugs....

A man was just waking up from anesthesia after surgery, and his wife was sitting by his side.

His eyes fluttered open and he said, "You're beautiful." Then he fell asleep again.

His wife had never heard him say that before, so she stayed by his side.

A few minutes later his eyes fluttered open again and he said, "Oh it's you."

"What happened to beautiful?", she asked.

The man replied, "The drugs are wearing off."



**FOLDED WINGS****Harold Farrar:**

Tail Gunner Tipton Crew  
**Harold Farrar** died June 3, 2007. He was shot down twice, captured the second time and held in Luft IV. He is survived by his wife, Barbara. He was a good friend. We collaborated on writing an article for the Pantanella News.  
 Reported by Pierre Kennedy

**James Alvin Culbertson:**

Althoff Nose Gunner  
 Died November 2, 2005.  
 Reported by Pierre Kennedy

Our thoughts and  
 prayers are with  
 all our  
 fallen comrades  
 who have found  
 everlasting peace  
 You have served  
 your country well.  
 We will remember  
 you forever

**Cader Lex Shelby:**

Clodfelter Engineer-

From: shelb314@cctc.net

Subject: folded wings

Date: November 3, 2007

To: frank@frankambrose.com

My husband, **Cader Lex Shelby, jr.** who was a T/ sergeant/ gunner-flight engineer on the Donald Clodfelter crew of the 781st Squadron, stationed in the Pantanella area in 1944-45 died on June 30, 2007. Lex was proud of his Air Force service and was instrumental in organizing numerous crew reunions over the years. He was the last member of his ten man crew to fold his wings.  
 Sincerely, Melba Shelby

**MEMORIAL SERVICE.....**

.....A 'Service of Remembrance Reunion 2007'

A 'Service of Remembrance' honoring our 'Folded Wings Comrades' was held in the Memorial Chapel at Fort Myer, Virginia, October 10, 2007.

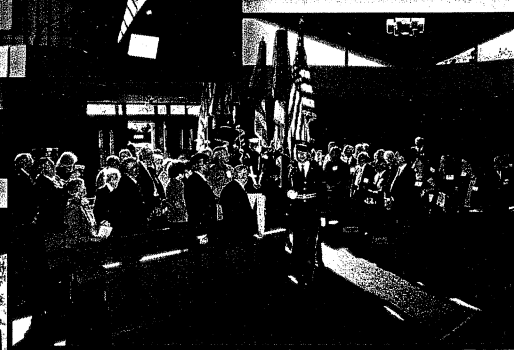
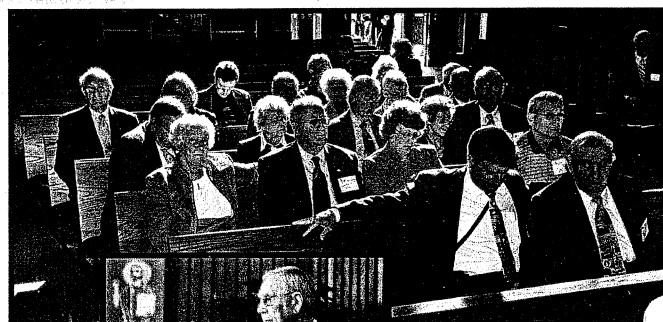
The highly emotional service began and ended with great pageantry as the Posting and Retiring of the Colors was executed by members of the "Armed Forces Color Guard."

Following the Pledge to the Flag an Invocation was given by Post Chaplain, Coffman.

Oren Lee, our Association Chaplain, led the congregation in a Responsive Reading.

Ken Kill solemnly read from a list of fallen comrades of those who have joined the 'Folded Wings' since our last reunion.

The occasion ended with a prayer by our Association Chaplain, Oren Lee, followed by one chorus of the Air Force Song and a benediction by Myers Base Chaplain, Coffman.



All photos by Frank Ambrose



## Anonymous 781st Member Establishes Remembrance Endowment Fund

November 30, 2007  
Mr. Frank Ambrose  
44 East Boulevard  
Gloversville, NY 12078

Dear Mr. Ambrose,  
Please find enclosed a press release for the Pantanella Newsletter announcing the establishment of the 781st Bomb Squadron Remembrance Endowment Fund.

This fund was created by a member of the 781st. Bomb Squadron (H) Association to benefit Museum educational programs, in remembrance of the forty six men of the 781st who died in combat, and all of the other men of the squadron who have folded wings since.

The Museum is grateful for the establishment of this Fund which will help fulfill our educational mission, and also for the donation of artifacts and memorabilia pertaining to the 781st Bomb Squadron.

Please convey to the Association members that the Museum welcomes additional contributions to the Fund, as well as additional artifacts and memorabilia that tell the story of the 781st Bomb Squadron.

Sincerely, Steve Prall  
Deputy Director & COO

**November 30, 2007**-The Strategic Air & Space Museum in Ashland, Nebraska was pleased to accept a generous donation last month from a member of the 781st Bomb Squadron (H) Association. A \$3,500 gift of endowment has been given to establish the 781st. Bomb Squadron (H) Remembrance Endowment, in remembrance of the forty-six men of the 781st who died in combat, and all the other men of the Squadron who have folded wings since.

The earnings from the Endowment Fund, not the principal, will provide scholarship opportunities to deserving students who wish to participate in the Museum's Flight Camps. The Museum serves over 25,000 students annually through innovative educational programming aimed at creating an interest in fields such as aviation and aerospace through math and science applications.

The donor gave additional books, writings, papers, and personal memorabilia and artifacts pertaining to the 81st. Bomb Squadron. They will be placed in the Strategic Air & Space Museum's permanent collection. This, and such other donated personal memorabilia, will be preserved in air conditioned and humidity controlled storage for research and rotated display.

## 781st Membership No Longer Restricted to Pantanella Vets

**781st Membership now open to Families of Pantanella Vets and other dedicated individuals**

An important amendment was added to our constitution during this years' business meeting.

Up to then only veterans that had served at Pantanella Base during WWII were eligible to become members of the Association. As time passed, it became increasing evident that in order to carry on and perpetuate the unit, eligibility should be made available to any family member and or any others dedicated to preserving our heritage.



John Fandrey made a motion to accept the amendment as proposed at the last meeting which would increase the eligibility to any family

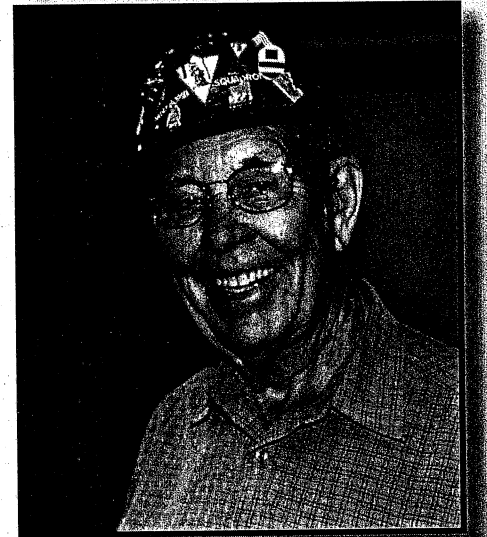
member of the 781st Bomb Squadron that served at Pantanella Air Base in Italy or to any person dedicated in preserving the history of the association.

By applying and paying dues they then would become an associate member and be eligible to vote and hold office. The motion was seconded and carried.

In view of the amendment to the By-Laws, a membership application is included with this issue and members are encouraged to invite their families and dedicated individuals to become active and voting members.

Deputy Director of the Strategic Air & Space Museum, Steve Prall, said "the Museum is grateful for the creation of this endowment to help the Museum fulfill its educational mission." "There is a strong bond that is forged between men who have faced a danger together. It gives me a good feeling to start such an endowment fund and collection in their memory. I am convinced that, in time, both the collection and fund will grow," said the donor.

## President's Corner



Association President:  
Orren Lee

### Greetings from your new president,

I want to thank you for your confidence in electing me President and am honored to serve the Association. I have made many good friends and always enjoy the reunions.

We are very hopeful that the amendment to the Association By-laws adopted at the 2007 business meeting of the 781st will insure it's continuance by increasing our membership.

Please refer to the explanation of the change written up elsewhere in this Newsletter.

We had a very good reunion in Washington D.C. and was gratified to see such a great turn out.

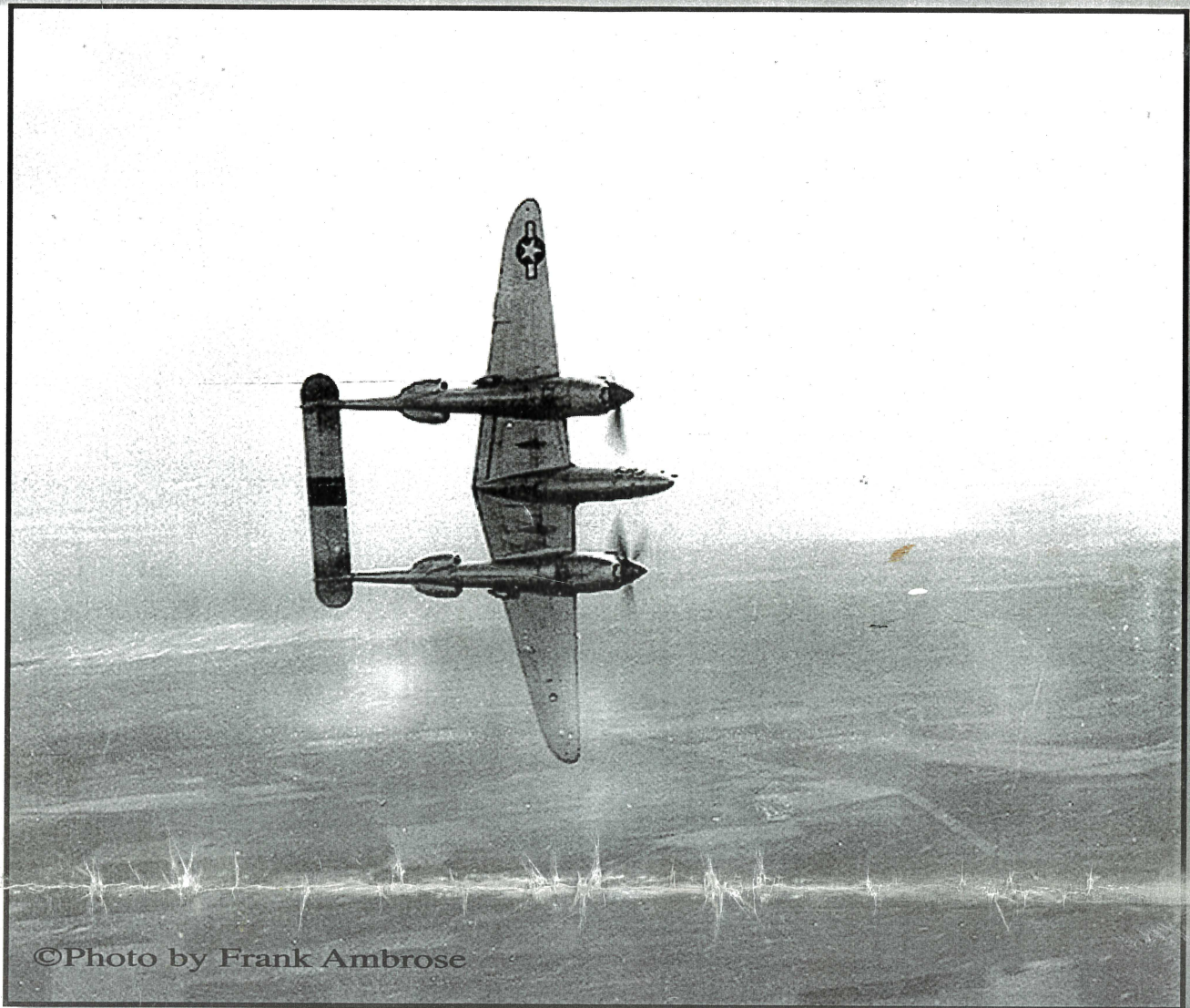
I am looking forward to the photographs I am sure that our editor will print in this issue of the Pantanella News.

Ron Soucy has already began to make plans for next year's 2008 Reunion at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, Thank you, Ron!

I urge each one of you to reserve the date and make plans on meeting us there October 4th thru the 7th of 2008.

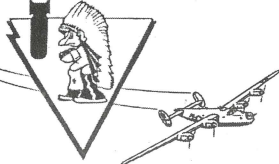
May I also take this opportunity to wish all of you a 'Very Happy Prosperous New Year'.

Orren-



©Photo by Frank Ambrose

781st "PANTANELLA NEWS"  
c/o Frank Ambrose, Editor  
44 East Blvd.  
Gloversville, NY 12078



SIOUX FALLS, SD 01/04/08 16:22

It's  
**DAYTON AGAIN**  
October 4th thru 7th  
2008  
**THINK POSITIVE**

ORREN LEE  
2312 BRAEMAR DR.  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57105

