



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

# PANTANELLA NEWS

Published by 781st Bomb Squadron Association©

#102  
#101 January 2011

## It's New Orleans in 2011



## Tampa Was Huge



781st Bomb Squadron 2010 Reunion  
MacDill Air Force Base  
October, 7, 2010



## PANTANELLA NEWS

Editor:-

Frank Ambrose

44 East Blvd.

Gloversville, New York

518 725 3006

email: <frank@frankambrose.com>

**Notify or contact any or all of these individuals for any FW's---News-Address Changes--Or Whatever**

### 781st BS Asso. Officers

#### President:-

**Orren Lee:**

2312 Braemar Dr.

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

605 339 1297

email: <clee75@q.com>

#### Vice President:-

**Marilyn Horne**

17933 Bahama Isle

Tampa, FL 33647-2777

email: <marilynkhorne@yahoo.com >

#### Treasurer:-

**James Braud**

403 Christian Ln,

Slidell, LA 70458

985 290 2021

email: <braudj@hotmail.com>

#### Executive Sect:-

**Carole Lee:**

2312 Braemar Dr.

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

605 339 1297

email: <clee75@q.com>

781st Bomb Squadron Association

c/o Orren Lee, Pres.

2312 Braemar Dr.

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Email: <clee75@q.com>

#### Officers

Orren Lee: President

Vice President: Marilyn Horne

James Braud: Treasurer

Secretary: Debbie Cherry

#### Board of Directors

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

In Seven Battle Campaigns

## 781st Bomb Squadron Association Business Meeting...

Doubletree Hotel Palm Court

Tampa, Florida

October 6, 2010

The 781st Bomb Squadron Association Business Meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by President Orren Lee.

He appointed James Braud as the presiding Parliamentarian, and Debbie Cherry as the presiding Secretary. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Frank Wassenaar.

The veterans were asked to rise and to be recognized. The associate members were also asked to stand to be recognized.

The 2009 Secretary's Minutes of the Business Meeting was published in the PANTANELLA NEWS January

2010. The motion was made, seconded, and approved by vote to accept the minutes as printed.

Patty Kill gave the Treasurer's Report. The motion was made, seconded, and approved by vote to accept the report as presented and to file for audit.

In new business, Patty Kill reported on the 2010 Reunion, noting that the attendance was excellent this year and in the process of gathering and paying the expenses. A final report will be published in the PANTANELLA NEWS.

Debbie Cherry reported the recommendations of the Board of Directors to have a 2011 Reunion. The membership voted to accept the Board's recommendation. A discussion for the location of the 2011 Reunion was started by Bernie Badler suggesting San Diego, CA since the B24s originated there. James Braud said he would favor having the Reunion in New Orleans, LA,

but he would be able to help plan a reunion in either location. Frank Ambrose made the motion with James Braud seconding and the membership approving the location for the 2011 Reunion as New Orleans. The National World War II Museum is located there and the NAS Joint Reserve base is in nearby Belle Chasse.

Continue on Pg 3







501(c)(3) status of the museum.

Orren and Carole Lee pledged \$500 and Earl and Gracie Leinart pledged \$200.

In other business, James Braud suggested that the PANTANELLA NEWS be available in e-mail format, saving in printing and mailing costs. Carole Lee reported that the printing contract we have now is contingent on a minimum quantity and that by reducing that amount, we could be actually paying more.

**BOMBER WAR, 1944-45**, by John Nichol and Tony Rennell.

Appreciation from the membership was expressed to President Orren Lee and Executive Secretary Carole Lee for the many contributions they make to keep our association active.

The meeting was adjourned by President Orren Lee at 5:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted by  
**Debbie Cherry, Presiding Secretary.**

Continued from pg 3

Earl Leinart presented the proposed slate for the 2011 officers prepared by the Nominating Committee (Earl Leinart, Al LeBlanc, George Hausold, and Greg Soucy).

For President: Orren Lee

For Vice President:

Marilyn Horne

For Secretary: Debbie Cherry

For Treasurer: James Braud

For Chaplain: Frank Wassenaar

Editor of the PANTANELLA

NEWS: Frank Ambrose

As Board of Directors: Frank Ambrose,

Earl Leinart, Frank Wassenaar

President Orren Lee asked if there were

any nominations from the floor. With

none being suggested, the motion was

made, seconded, and approved by vote to

accept the slate of officers as presented.

Carole Lee was appointed Executive Secretary for the upcoming year.

President Orren Lee announced the recent death of Connie Ogden and expressed appreciation for her service as secretary. He also expressed his appreciation to Patty Kill for her service as association Treasurer.

Earl Leinart reported on the 781st Bomb Squadron Association Scholarship Endowment Fund. Student scholarships are provided for summer camps and Top Gun camps at the Strategic Air and Space Museum in Ashland, NE.

There was \$8000 at the beginning of the year, with a \$5000 donation from the 781st Bomb Squadron, a \$1000 donation from Dr. Elliot Sweet and a \$100 donation in memory of Earl Leinart's brother being made.

This year, in lieu of the donation from the association, it was suggested that members make individual pledges to contribute to the endowment fund. It was confirmed that the donations would qualify for the tax deduction under the



President Orren Lee praised Frank Ambrose for the exceptional newsletter he produces.

Orren attended a reunion planning conference and took some copies of the PANTANELLA NEWS. He said the comments were in amazement on the fine quality of our newsletter. Much appreciation goes to Frank for his dedicated work.

Earl Leinart expressed appreciation to Jim Althoff and Marcel Snyder for the origins of our association. Out of 1100 original members, they located 900 active addresses to begin the 781st Bomb Squadron Association. Without their groundwork, we would not be having this reunion today!

Earl then read excerpts from the book, **TAIL-END CHARLIES: THE LAST BATTLES OF THE**





## New Orleans History

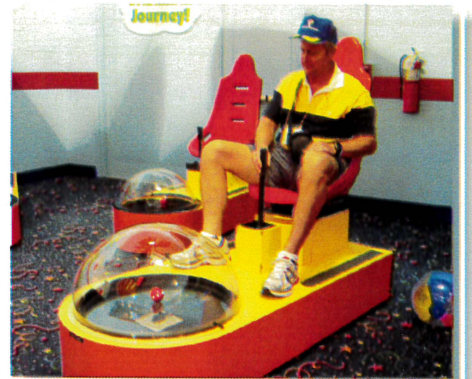
New Orleans, LA was founded in 1718 and ruled by France and then Spain for nearly 100 years. It is the only U.S. city where French was the predominant language for more than one century. In a unique partitioning in 1835, the City of New Orleans was literally split into three separate municipalities, each with its own mayor and council. After 17 years, the city was reunited, becoming the third largest and second richest in the nation.

New Orleans has approximately 40,000 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, more than most other cities in the U.S. including Washington D.C. Many of these architectural treasures are located in the 120 blocks of the French Quarter. New Orleans is known as the birthplace of jazz, and rightfully so. Early jazz greats like Louis Armstrong, Buddy Bolden, Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver got their starts in the nightclubs of Storyville, a red-light district that flourished between 1897 and 1917.



This city depended for 185 years on a canal system (108 miles) much more extensive than that of Venice, Italy. New Orleans is often called the "Crescent City" because it was founded on the bend of the Mississippi River. This unusual shape causes locals and visitors to become confused occasionally, as there is no traditional "north, south, east, or west" mode of getting around. Some streets in the city begin at one end parallel, and end up perpendicular.

New Orleans has a well-deserved reputation for food. There are more than 3000 restaurants in the city, many of which have been owned and operated by the same families for generations. The predominant foods are Creole and Cajun, but there are many ethnic restaurants that feature foods from throughout the world. The city consistently is rated one of the top cities for food by national and international publications.





## I GOT MAIL...

From: dlteets@comcast.net  
 Subject: William Russell  
 Date: September 27, 2010  
 To: frank@frankambrose.com

I just wanted to tell you Thank you for a wonderful site.

My uncle William Russell was in the 781st. My father has passed away 3 years ago and he knew very little of his brothers death. At the time he would of been 12years old. Our entire family appreciates seeing a picture of him.

Thank you again for sharing your photographs.

*Deborah Russell Teets*

## Your Attention Please Special Notice

It's the New Year again and dues are due.

We do not send out statements to remind anyone that their dues are due.

If you are not a "Life Member", check the address label affixed to this issue. If the year 2011 or longer does not appear above your name it means "your dues are due".

The cost of producing and cost of the postage required to print and mail the Pantanella News amounts to little over \$4.00 per issue to each member. In simple math, this means that we are losing \$2.00 on every member's \$10 yearly dues.

We depend on the dues to help defray the cost of producing the newsletter.

If you feel you have the means to donate more than the cost of the dues, it would be gratefully appreciated.

## What To See in New Orleans



National World War II Museum

The National World War II Museum is made up of four sections, each containing a different exhibit. A variety of artifacts, testimonies and documents, particularly those chronicling the World War II period, are on display. There is a permanent exhibit, as well as temporary exhibits and electronic exhibits, all of which transport visitors back to that time in history. In addition, two movies are screened several times daily in the museum's Malcolm S. Forbes Theater—these are "Price For Peace" and "D-Day Remembered."





## The Reunion As I Experienced It by Debbie Cherry

I just had to write and share what a wonderful experience I was blessed to have while attending the 781st Bomb Squadron Reunion 2010 in Tampa, Florida.

This was my family's first attendance at any of the reunions of the group and all I can say about that is we sure did not know what we were missing!!! Other years we had scheduling conflicts with the reunion time and my Mom was too ill to travel for several years before her death in 2009, but this year was our year....the time was right and the location was great for us in South Carolina!

My Dad, Harry Smith, and my brother, Steve Smith, and myself drove the 8 hour trip. My daughter, Georgia McKinnon, flew in from Atlanta and met us at the DoubleTree Hotel. We got settled in our rooms and found our way to the Hospitality Room to register and the fun began!!! We were welcomed like "old friends" by Orren and Carole Lee. We started to meet the other attendees and really enjoyed getting to know our new friends.

Marilyn and Ron Horne really know how to "throw a party". From the Hospitality Room decorations and refreshments to the spectacular Final Banquet, their special touch and arrangements were evident. MUCH effort on their part made this reunion so very special for all of us to enjoy.

The trip to the Flight of Fantasy was special with the group getting treated to a private tour of the hanger with the Liberator B24 bomber. The size of that plane never ceases to amaze me!! We also enjoyed a private lunch there.

The bus tour of MacDill AFB was interesting. We were given a tour of a refueling plane and yes, it seems impossible that refueling in flight can be done between two planes!!!

The memorial service at the chapel was meaningful. We were treated to a private luncheon at the Officers' Club, followed by several briefings.

The Banquet was so eloquently prepared! The meal was delicious. The table adornments were so thoughtfully planned to honor the World War II veterans. The center piece was a specially made replica of the B24 Rudder, with a vase featuring pictures of the "young, good-looking" soldiers seated at the table. We enjoyed entertainment by a young couple dancing to the music of the WWII era.

Each veteran was introduced individually to the crowd with Greg and Joe Soucy giving their military history and honors

received. The Hornes presented two containers of beach sand from Utah and Omaha Beaches to the veterans as mementos of the evening.

A large framed Rudder replica was presented to Frank Ambrose by Ron and Marilyn Horne on behalf of the Association as a special thank you for all the effort he puts into producing the *PANTANELLA NEWS* newsletter for the group.

Our first reunion experience?  
**WONDERFUL!!!**

Do we plan to attend next year's reunion in New Orleans? **YOU BET YA!!!**  
(Lord willing and the creek don't rise!!)

I would like to encourage any veteran of the 781st Bomb Squadron AND their family members to make the effort to attend next year. You will enjoy yourself so much. The new friends you will meet and the planned activities are well worth the effort it will take for you to attend!!!

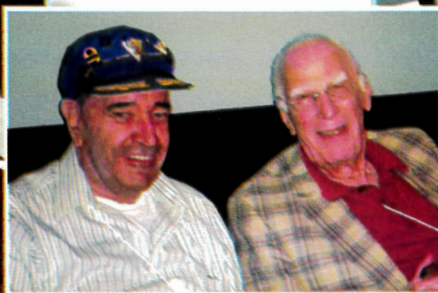
My Dad has a troubled time riding in a vehicle with severe pain in his hip and back, and after the reunion (and the 16 hour ride in our van) he will tell you - he was glad he went and had a GREAT first reunion experience!

*Editor note: Debbie Cherry's father, Harry Smith, was a Radio operator on the Prince Crew which was shot down in flames.*





# Say Cheese Everybody...





## Attendance at 781st BS Asso 2010 Reunion

If your name is not on this list-  
You missed a lot!

•**Frank Ambrose**, Gloversville, NY  
William Ambrose, Dallas, TX  
•**Bernie Badler**, Petaluma, CA  
William Bartlett and Jean, Rupert, ID  
•**Charles "Bubba" Braud**,  
Thibodaux, LA  
Charles Braud, Jr., Baton Rouge, LA  
James Braud, Slidell, LA  
Robert Braud, Napoleonville, LA  
Thomas Braud, Houston, TX  
Jeremy Braud, Tampa, FL

•**Raymond Cauble**, Memphis, TN  
Thomas and Lynette Cauble, Millington, TN  
•**Carl Dahl**, Sacramento, CA  
Gregory and Jaime Sonic, Mather, CA  
Leonard Goldstein, Miami, FL  
•**George Hausold** and Veni, Hernando, FL  
•**Albert LeBlanc** and Doris, Norco, LA  
Philip and Belynda LeBlanc, Crownpoint, LA  
Mick and Sharon Barthes, Ocean Springs, MS  
Donald and Colleen Ehlenbeck, Kissimmee, FL  
Joe and Nicole Gazzo, Norco, LA  
Ron and Marilyn Horne, Tampa, FL  
Ollie Horn, Tampa, FL  
Danielle Horne and AJ Sutzko, Tampa, FL  
Homer and Faye Johnson, Lakeland, FL  
Matthew and Debora Long, Gordonsville, VA  
Bridget Parresol, Lakeland, FL  
Jeanne and Ronnie Procell, Praireville, LA  
Marcella Rachal and Corey Rachal, Eunice, LA  
Louis and Sandra Ryan, Baton Rouge, LA  
Ronnie Kay Smith, Mobile AL

•**Orren Lee** and Carole, Sioux Falls, SD  
•**Earl Leinart** and Grace, Omaha, NE  
•**Homer Moeller**, Paradise Valley, AZ  
Robert Moeller, Arlington Hts, IL  
Charles (Chuck) Sorlie, St. Paul, MN  
•**Harry Smith**, Smoaks, SC  
Debbie Cherry, Smoaks, SC  
Georgia McKinnon, Kennesaw, GA  
Steven Smith, Smoaks, SC  
•**James Marcel Snyder** and Dollie,  
Melbourne, FL  
•**Roland "Ron" Soucy**, Beavercreek, OH  
Gregory Soucy and Angela Oliveri,  
Beavercreek, OH  
Joseph and MaryLou Soucy, Pompano  
Beach, FL  
•**Elliot Sweet**, Mt. Pleasant, SC  
Laurie Bedus, Windsor, CT  
•**Frank Wassenaar and Dottie**,  
Alma, MI

Other family and friends of  
Folded Wings Veterans or Veter-  
ans unable to attend.

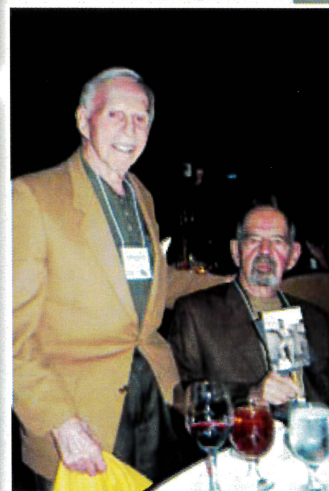
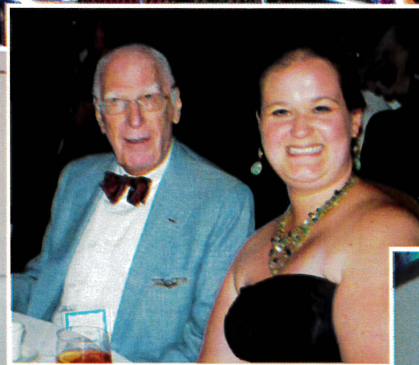
•**(Reyer Swan FW)** Diane  
and Robert Misinkiewicz, Nep-  
tune, NJ  
•**(Barney Russell II FW)**  
Anna Russell, Magnolia, AR  
Barney (Bud) Russell III and  
Libby Wallis, Tulsa, OK (Barney  
Russell II FW)  
•**(Kennard R. Wiggins  
FW)** Kennard and Liz Wiggins  
Elkton, MD  
•**(Kenneth Kill)** Patty Kill,  
Springboro OH  
Beth Cumbie, Marion, OH  
•**(John Zadrozny)**  
Donald and Kristin Zadrozny,  
Dunedin, FL  
•**George Miller 782nd** and  
Carol Bates, Chugia, AK





## Something For Everyone...

### Caught In The Act





# 781st BS Association 2010 Reunion Service of Remembrance Base Chapel, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida 07 October 2010

The Memorial Service for all of the "Fallen Wings" of the 781st Bomb Squadron was held in the Base Chapel at MacDill Air Force Base October 7, 2010.

The Ritual began with the "Posting of Colors" by the Mac Dill AFB Honor Guard.

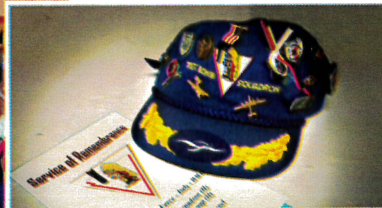
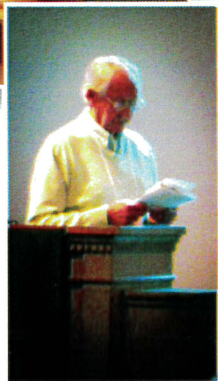
The Invocation was given by Base Chaplain, Captain John Choi, USAF.

Following the singing of 'America the Beautiful', Frank Wassenaar,

Association Chaplain, led a responsive prayer honoring our fallen comrades.

He then read the names of each of our members that have joined the 'Folded Wings' since the last reunion. As each name was announced, Squadron Vice President, Marilyn Horne, lit a Votive Candle in Remembrance.

The ritual ended with Taps and the Retiring of the Colors,





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

## Presidents Corner



**781st Friends –**  
This is going to be a short message. The pictures and write-ups of the reunion in Tampa tell it all. We hope it will encourage you to start planning your trip to New Orleans for the next 781st reunion.  
**Orren Lee**

## FOLDED WINGS

### Ralph D. Hendrickson: Pilot

**Ralph D. Hendrickson, Sr.**, born in Tulsa, Oklahoma November 27, 1917, went to be with the Lord October 28, 2010. He was predeceased in 2008 by his loving wife of 72 years, Patricia. While struggling with a broken heart, he continued with his usual diligence and determination.



He served his country for 21 years, before retiring in 1963. He entered the Air Force right after Pearl Harbor. Married with three children at the time he wanted to be a pilot, trained then served with

the 781st Squadron 465th Bomb Group flying 50 missions while earning The Purple Heart for Bravery.

After retirement he started and ran a successful business for many years. Upon his second retirement he became an active Red Cross and Veterans Administration Volunteer. He was awarded Civilian Volunteer of the Year in 2001 at Patrick Air Force Base.

He is survived by four children, Don, Linda, Ron, and Pat; nine grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Burial with Full Military Honors in Tulsa, Oklahoma was held Wednesday, November 3, 2010.

### Dean Thomas Otto:

Nose Gunner, Pitts Crew

### Dean Thomas Otto Age 87 Of



Shoreview Survived by wife of 66 years, Beth; daughter, Jennifer (Tom Saby); son, Ken (Sheila) & Dan (Lisa); sister, Phyllis Ulrich; grandchildren, Katie, Jackie, Adam, Neal, Marjorie & Charles.

Preceded in death by parents; 3 brothers; grandson, Ben. Served in the Army Air Corps., & was a POW in Germany in Stalag Luft 1. He was an Engineer for 37 years for PORTEC. A Memorial Service was held Thurs. Aug 12, at Centennial Methodist Church, 1524 West County Road C2, Roseville. In lieu of flowers memorials preferred to Centennial Church or YMCA Camp du Nord.

### Darrell Kinney: Engineer, Rice Crew

From: dflo42@gmail.com  
Subject: Death  
Date: September 30, 2010  
To: frank@frankambrose.com

This is to inform you **Darrell Kinney**, 611 South Locust, Mt Pleasant, Iowa Died September 19th 2010.

His wife Florence wanted me to let you know to stop the Pantanella News. He enjoyed reading this in the past. Thank You

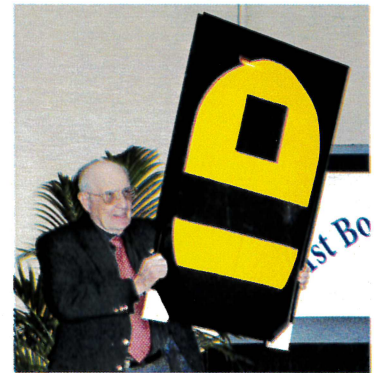
**Florence Kinney**

## NOTICE

Left over from the Reunion are seven Squadron Vert. Stabilizers. These are the Replicas that adorned the table. They are approximately 2 by 3 feet and the cost is \$25.00 each + \$7.50 S&H for a total of \$32.50

There are also seven Commemorative coins remaining. These are the 2x2 inch coins and their cost is \$2.00 each plus shipping.

Contact Ron Horne at: [rhorne15@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rhorne15@tampabay.rr.com)



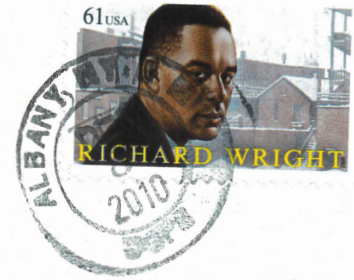
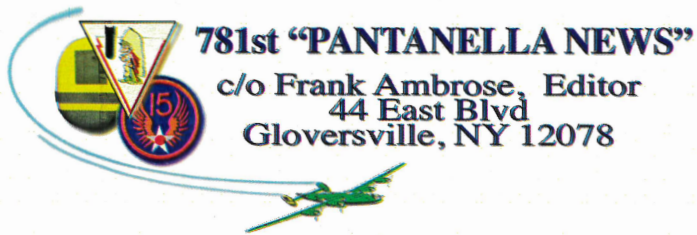
## "Hey Doc, Is This Script Correct?"

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. 'Is it true,' she wanted to know, 'that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?' 'Yes, I'm afraid so,' the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, 'I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'.'







It's the  
"BIG EASY"  
In 2011  
PLAN ON IT!

ASSOC 2010  
CAROLE J. LEE  
2312 BRAEMAR DR.  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57105-4126

