

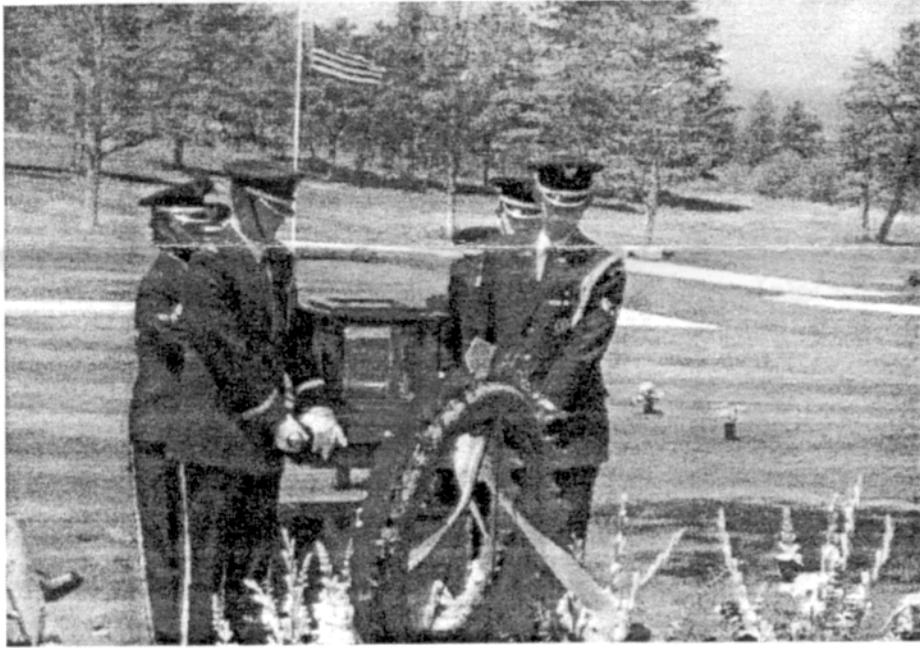


783rd Latrine O Gram

JUNE 2004

Fifteenth Air Force
55th Bombardment Wing

OUR LEADERS PASS ON COLONEL BURT ANDRUS & COLONEL JOHN KNAUS MAKE FINAL FLITES



Ceremonies at United States Air Force Academy Cemetery as Colonel Andrus laid to rest with full military honors

On May 14, 2004 Colonel Burton C. Andrus, Jr USAF Ret was laid to rest with full military honors at the United States Air Force Academy Cemetery marking his final take off and flite to Eagles Nest said to be the final home of all Combat Air Crew members. This followed a Celebration of His Life at the Church At Woodmoor attended by his family and many military dignitaries who made short talks in his memory. As the original Commanding Officer of the 783rd he organized; directed the training; and led this unit to a distinguished record in WW II. Considering his cadre of personnel were mostly young airmen just out of flying schools with no combat experience the records they achieved were remarkable. Further along in his career during the cold war with Russia he was given command of the 96th Bomb Wing a B-47 SAC unit at that time at the bottom of the ladder in SAC readiness tests. At their first OR under his command they moved to the top. Later they were to establish a record never equaled any other SAC Bomb Wing. Following that he was given the daunting task of activating the first operational Minute Man Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB. All having the opportunity to know this leader will attest to his deep love and devotion to his country. As a Combat Commander his passing marked the loss of one of the best !



COLONEL JOHN V. KNAUS USAF RET

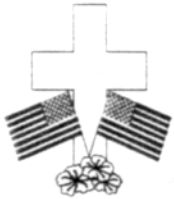
John Knaus a considerate, unassuming, soft spoken individual was one of a kind in the military and life. As a Bombardier fluent in the Yugoslavian language during WW II he was selected to train their exchange flyers. Following that assignment he was assigned to become the Squadron Bombardier in the original 783rd cadre when it was organized. Under his leadership his Squadron 'Toggle Jockeys' had a most successful record. During this period he individually proved to be a great Bombardier while leading & hitting heavily defended targets. For this he received 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses and a promotion to Group Bombardier. Remaining in the service following WW II he returned to college and completed his law degree. At that time he was appointed a Judge Advocate where he served at various duty assignments all over the world. While serving in Japan there was a crash of a military aircraft into a Japanese housing unit causing a catastrophic loss. Being in charge of settling all claims he received a prestigious personal citation and decoration from the Emperor of Japan for his humanitarian and efficient efforts. In recent years he was slowed by Macular Degeneration. Yet he never exhibited any signs of despondency while always remaining optimistic and interested in Squadron & life affairs. Like all great leaders he led by example—both in the military and life.

TIME OUT FOR A FINAL GOOD BYE

As the wordsmith for this rag sheet we must take a time out to say good bye to both Burt & Johnny who we considered very special people. Joining the 783rd as a 19 year old F/O we had the privilege of both taking us under their wing. During the course of completing 51 missions both contributed many lessons of life to a kid from Texas. What little we achieved along the road of life following our Quid Fit Days can be contributed to their teachings. Their memories will be etched in our heart & mind for ever. Their frequent calls & support will be greatly missed.

THOUGHTS FOR THE FUTURE

With the passing of Colonels Andrus & Knaus each and everyone should pause a moment to reflect that the sands of time are quickly passing for each member. The future reunions will afford a valuable opportunity for what may well be your last opportunity to visit with valued friends. The old and previous alibis of thinking you will see them at the next gathering may well prove to be a missed opportunity you will regret. Likewise, your failure to share in forwarding info for future LOGs will deprive old friends of information you may have wished them to know. The unexpected passing of Burt & Johnny should serve as a wake up call for you to pick up the phone and make an important call or take pen in hand and drop a note. It is later then you think or willing to realize ! Make a resolution today to be a better participant in your Squadron Affairs ! The Association needs your support-- and you need that of the Association. Don't place your family members in the embarrassing position of them having to call or write and plead for us to remember you in the LOG as many have done.



TAPS

IN MEMORY OF OUR EAGLES NEST FLITE MEMBERS

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE KNOWING THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

Colonel Burton C. Andrus, Jr USAF Ret-born September 21, 1917 passed away April 20, 2004 a victim of stomach cancer. As a member of a distinguished military family he graduated from the United States Military Academy Class of 1941 and went on to accomplish the military record previously mentioned. He is survived by his wife of 61 years Kay Faus Andrus; three children: B.C. Andrus III, Wendy Talich & Dr Robert Andrus, preceded in death by daughter Marnie Andrus. Also survived by brother John Andrus & sister Kitty Williams and six adored and loved grandchildren. ***WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST!***

Colonel John V. Knaus USAF Ret-born November 22, 1917 passed away June 12, 2004 when his patched up heart gave out. Born in Chicago he attended Bowen High School and graduated from DePaul University Law School. He proudly served the USAF for 30 years with 22 years as a Judge Advocate. After retirement from the USAF he went on to retire from a second career as Executive Director of the Missouri Council on Criminal Justice. He is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years Helen Fodor Knaus; sister Margaret Granich, Yucaipa, CA; son John Knaus (Laura); daughter Mary LeCluyse (Paul); son Joseph Knaus & son David Knaus; and 7 beloved grandchildren. ***WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST!***

Joseph Bryan Young-the Assistant Engineer & Top Turret Gunner on the Harry Fike Crew passed away on May 13, 2004 at the age of 78. Following graduation from High School in 1943 he enlisted in the Army Air Force. Upon discharge he returned to college and graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. At Purdue he met and married Rose Mary his wife of 54 years. Joe retired as East Coast Manager of Onan Generators. Surviving are his wife Rose Mary and 3 daughters, Cynthia Hopkins (John); Carolyn Terzian (Peter); & Janet Cerilli (Richard); and 4 grandchildren. ***WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST!***

Marie Reeves-the wife of Dale Reeves, one of those great guys doing such a grand job on the line, lost her gallant battle with Big C. For months this lady did her best to hang on but in the end Big C just over whelmed her. Surviving in addition to Dale are 2 children, Deanna Brown (Blair) and Ladonna Goschke (Mick). ***WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER GRAND LADY!***

The best sermons are lived--not preached !



PILLS & USED UP PARTS DEPARTMENT OPEN YOUR MOUTH & DROP YOUR DRAWERS TIME

BOBBY WILLS-your former 'Keeper of the Coins' and now Association VP while fleeing the harsh environment of his Michigan home was 'snow birding' at his Florida digs. Early one morning he awoke choking and was rushed to emergency. After a multitude of all the expensive tests they could hit Medicare with the Medics pronounced his problem was due to asthma from all of the pollen in the air since they were experiencing a dry spell at that time. As soon as he could recuperate sufficiently he drove home to Michigan. All the time he was following the treatment and medications directed by the so called Florida Medics. Shortly following his return home his condition worsened necessitating another rush trip to emergency. After an examination the real source of his problem was uncovered. He had such severe arterial blockage that it took the immediate insertion of not one but two stints to alleviate the problem. He is now on the road to recovery. You can bet your boots & spurs the 'Ole Horny Toad' will soon be back to his favorite past time of 'Widow Chasing' now that he can get a little oxygen to help jangle his hormones.

Don't you know the 'Friendly Undertakers' around Ruskin, Florida enjoy a good business from their local emergency room Doctors?

CLEO JACKSON-the Engineer on the Pace Crew that got their tail feathers torched in the Friedrichshafen slaughter resulting in his extended R & R at a Kraut Rest Camp recently experienced a heart problem to add to his long list of health woes that required a stint insertion. This probably means his poor wife Susanne, who doesn't weigh 90 pounds dripping wet will even have to wheel him in his wheel chair from his Lazy Boy Recliner in front of the TV to the dining room table. And-today he is one big hombre far from being under nourished all attributed to his R & R visit.

EDITH GOPLIN-the wife of Frank Goplen the Co Pilot on the Greenwood Crew scragged on the July 19, 1944 Munich raid earning him an extended stay at the Barth R & R Hostel suffered a fall resulting in a broken hip. After surgery and a extended visit at Mayo Clinic she is recuperating at home with Gop becoming nurse maid; cook; bottle washer & chief care provider. Don't you know the big Norwegian makes a cute 'Aunt Minnie' with his apron & nurses cap?

LOIS CUNNINGHAM-the wife of Glenn Cunningham, who slaved down on the line with the Pat Spradley Ground Crew, underwent back surgery for the second time. Glenn advises they are hopeful of more success the second time around. Lois continues to have a steep hill to climb still having to use a walker. However, being cut from pioneer stock out in San Angelo, Texas you can bet your boots & spurs this 'Ole Sister' will give it her best shot and continue to be climbing when most would have thrown in the sponge a long way back.

HISTORY OF 15TH AIR FORCE & 55TH WING

GLENN CUNNINGHAM-HAS PUT TOGETHER QUITE A LARGE BOOK ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT. INCORPORATED IS MUCH OF WHAT FLOYD GREGORY PRINTED PLUS A LARGE NUMBER OF PHOTOS AND MORE HISTORICAL INFO ON THE WING & 15TH. MUCH OF THE LATTER FURNISHED HIM BY THE 15TH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION BEFORE IT FOLDED. THOSE INTERESTED IN PASSING ALONG A LARGE VOLUME OF HISTORY CAN PURCHASE COPIES FOR \$25 TO COVER COST OF PRINTING & MAILING.

GLENN CUNNINGHAM; 1320 PREUSSER; SAN ANGELO, TX 76903; 325-653-4851

Everyone has a photographic memory--some of us just don't have any more film

MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER

Dear 783rd Bomb Squadron Heroes,

I want to thank each of you for your vote of confidence to have one of the "kids" hold an office in the Association. My name is on the title of Treasurer, but I feel that every "kid" -- sons and daughters -- of yours represents this office and we will all work to keep your funds the way you would have them.

All of you are truly heroes and we are grateful to you for the service you gave to our country so many years ago so that we may enjoy the freedom we have today. Clarence and I viewed the opening of the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. and felt it is a wonderful tribute to those of you who served our country. I hope that some of you were able to attend that ceremony. We looked to see if we recognized anyone.

My Dad, Weyland Feely, always looked forward to the reunions and we begin attending with he and Mother. In his memory and your many friendships, we have continued to attend since his passing in 2000. It is always a joy to see each of you and to hear of your stories, learn from your experiences, share fun and laughter, and have another unforgettable time.

In the past years, the reunions have found the absence of those heroes we have had to say "good-bye" to and those whose health has prevented them from attending. Even though their presence is not at the reunions, those who are in attendance keep them close in thought and remembrance. As we look forward to future reunions we can know that it is not where we gather, but that we gather together to share again the stories, the experiences and the fun and laughter with wonderful heroes and their families, **the 783rd Bomb Squadron!**

May God Bless Each of You and God Bless America!

Nancy & Clarence Young

Weyland Feely a 51 mission Gunner on the Heim Crew if alive today would be so proud of his daughter serving as Treasurer. And-it should be noted as the retired Secretary of the Midland, TX School Board she is doing a superior job of keeping your coins. Our thanks for a job well done!

COME JOIN US AT THE 2004 MINI REUNION

DAVENPORT, IOWA
September 9, 10, 11

THE QUAD CITIES AWAIT YOU

(Davenport & Bettendorf, Iowa/ Rock Island & Moline, Illinois)

Before I talk about the mini, I must mention the sadness that comes about when we lose two of our leaders within a two month period. Commander Bert Andrus and Squadron Bombardier John Knaus. I know that Sam will be addressing their loss elsewhere in this news letter but I did want to acknowledge that this loss is deeply felt by the entire squadron. How fortunate we were to be able to enjoy their presence at our 2001 Omaha reunion. I had an additional loss also – my assistant engineer and top turret gunner, Joe Young, died from colon cancer on May 13th. If you close your eyes and listen carefully, you can hear their words from the past, "Carry On."

We are going to do that with the reunion in September. Those who have been to Davenport for previous minis know what a great time we all had. Those who have not experienced the Quad Cities hospitality are in for a treat. For the details please refer to the March LOG or visit our web site at www.783rd.org. You certainly won't want to miss seeing Tom Tennille's camcorder coverage of the Savannah reunion. Also, I have recently purchased all three books published by Gene Moxley. I will have them in the Hospitality Room. They are Missing In Action, a story of the 465th losses (with contributions from squadron members); The 465th "Remembered" Book I and Book II, a chronological history of the 465th through August 16, 1944.

The mystery tour is taking shape and the beauty of it is that there are no costs involved. Thanks to the Deputy to the Commanding Officer at the Rock Island Arsenal (a friend of mine) you will get to see an aspect of the historic Rock Island Arsenal that you have not seen before – we will be escorted through the Manufacturing Facility which is performing work in direct support of our operations in the mid-east. They are even providing us with bus transportation.

I hope that Coach Bo Bolinski has regained the confidence of his golf team and been taken off of probation. He has his work cut out for him since some of his golf team will need some rehab work to get in shape for our golf outing. The Volkman / Fike golf team is working on strategy to regain their rightful place in the tournament – last. Since no amount of work can change our golf game, we have to concentrate on strategy.

August 26th, 2004 is the deadline for registration, after that the motel releases all uncommitted rooms back into their inventory. To make sure that you can get a room at our host motel, it is imperative that you make reservations before that date. If you would like a handicap accessible room, you had better make your reservations now as there are only five available. At the same time, please send me your registration since Lola and our daughter, Cheri, need to finalize plans for the supper buffet on Thursday and I need to give the caterer of our Farewell Dinner a final count.

Finally, please bring your photo albums and memorabilia – we always enjoy this part of the mini. Come join us. Lola, Cheri, Roger and I are looking forward to seeing you.

Harry Fike



**MARK
THIS
DATE**

SEPTEMBER

9-10-11

DAVENPORT

IOWA



REUNION



**THIS MAKES THE 3RD CONSECUTIVE
MINI REUNION HELD IN DAVENPORT
YOU CAN BET HARRY & HIS FAMILY
WILL PUT ON A GREAT SHOW**

REUNION



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND & PARTICIPATE

PLEA FOR NEWS ITEMS

This is YOUR newsletter. The quality of info contained depends on what YOU send. To keep it interesting depends on your cooperation & help. Take pen in hand; pick up the phone; klick the mouse on your 'idiot box' and send news items. Info on great grandchildren; grandchildren; children; health problems of individuals; vacations; wild dreams; delusions of some old recruits attempting rape etc is needed. Lack of interest and individual participation has created that collection of 'misfits' in DC called a Congress--don't allow your Association to follow the same path. Take an interest and be a participant.

Yes, we have lost two of our senior leaders. Remember while on 'the Hill' leaders were 'scragged'--yet you guys stepped up amply replacing them and kept things going. It is time for some of you to do the same once again. Resolve to participate and help make your Association the best.

**QUID FIT
SAM**

783 BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

SAM MARIE

13306 LOBELIA

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)



REPORT ADDRESS & PHONE CHANGES TO

MIKE MAGAZZINE 24023 E. OAKLAND RD BAY VILLAGE, OH 44140
PHONE 440-871-3203

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

George Bevington 193 J St; Cayucos, CA 93430
Margaret Harvey 950 S 440 E Apt 136
William T. Hall 115 N Willis Ave; Endicott, NY 13760
Margaret McCloskey 1014 11th St; Mc Kees Rocks, PA 15136
Tom & Ann Tennille; 2067 N Jefferson St; Milledgeville, GA 31061

PHONE CHANGES CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

Tom & Ann Tennille 478-452-4427
Stan Pace 440 423 1360

AC CHANGES

Glenn Cunningham 915 to 325

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