



**The 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association, Inc.
The Long Rangers**

Shop Our Post Exchange

**Hello, and Happy 2018 to all our Friends and Family
Members!**



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How we Started

The 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association, Inc., The Long Rangers grew out of the initial meeting of former World War II members who got together in the spirit of fellowship and camaraderie in Reno, Nevada on September 11-12, 1972. Our goal and hope was for continued growth and expanded interest in the Nation's finest heroes. The members attending the initial meeting were: Carl Whitesell, Dan Cauffiel, George Jaffe, Ed Jurkens, M. P. Nelson, Arthur Downs, and C. Scott.

Our organization has grown and we have expanded to include the Children of the 307th and their families. Our hope is to insure that future generations never forget the sacrifices that these men made for them and our country.

Every two years we hold a reunion in a different part of the country and have a great time reminiscing and catching up with old and new friends.

WE ARE THE FAMILY!! WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF HEROS

Reunion Update - Watch out San Diego!! "We are Back"

Reunion 2018

October 17th-21st.

San Diego, CA

We are working on next years reunion and need some input from the membership. We have found some very nice hotels by or on the beach and close to Mira Mar base but these hotels want \$169 per room. We need to know if this is acceptable or if we need to look farther inland for less expensive lodging and reception halls more in line with previous reunions. Please see page 12 for more information about the upcoming reunion. Remember that San Diego, CA is a high destination town so prices will be higher than previous reunions. Please email Debbie Drake at President@307bg.net to vote your choice. We will go with the majority and we will post the results.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there.



Letter from the President

Hello Everyone,

As we start this new year let us give a thought & prayer to all who took their final flight last year. We lost family & friends, but let their memories stay alive in our hearts always.

It's a new year & time to think of our resolutions (some of which we will probably break). Let us all resolve to not break a very important one- to get our membership dues in end of January. We use that money to make a more memorable reunion.

And speaking of reunions. Ours this year is in sunny San Diego, October 17th-21st. We are finalizing the details but

it's sure to be a fun time. The 307th Bomb Wing will be joining us and bringing along their ride for us to look at.

I want to say how proud I am to be part of this great group of WWII heroes and all their families.

And we are so lucky to be able to honor these heroes and their memories.

With my warmest regards,

Our Heroes are the best and we are all family. Thank you all for your support and membership.

Debbie Drake - President

The Long Rangers

307th Bombardment Group (HV)

Email Me at - President@307bg.net



For All the Pilots, Navigators, Engineers, Loadmasters, Crew Chiefs, Door Gunners and other Aircrew....

Once the wings go on, they never come off whether they can be seen or not. It fuses to the soul through adversity, fear and adrenaline, and no one who has ever worn them with pride, integrity and guts can ever sleep through the 'call of the wild' that wafts through bedroom windows in the deep of the night.

When a good pilot or aircrew leaves the 'job' and retires, many are jealous, some are pleased and yet others, who may have already retired, wonder.

We wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.

We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.

We know in the world of flying, there is a fellowship which lasts long after the flight suits are hung up in the back of the closet.

We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life.

We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

Because we flew, we envy no man on earth.

Author Unknown

HISTORIAN's CORNER



We want to honor our Historian. Jim McCabe. Jim works tireless hours helping our vets and the families of our vets find out information about their missions and their loved one's life's during WWII. Just a couple of the way that Jim works to help our members and prospective member's are outlined in some of his letters to them below. Read and enjoy and when you speak to Jim. Thank him for all of his efforts over the years to help your families. You can reach Jim at this email address Email Me at - Historian@307bg.net

Brandon,

On behalf of the the 307th Bombardment Group(H) Association, please extend my warmest greetings to the family of our fallen Long Ranger and son of the 307th Bombardment Group, Lt. William G. Stevie, Pilot, 372nd Bombardment Squadron. Lt. Stevie was tragically lost the day after the Japanese signed the surrender documents aboard the Battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Lt. Stevie spent his last few weeks continuing to bring the fight to the Japanese, on Search and Rescue Missions for missing personnel and on the day of his death, attempting to bring the provisions to Clark Field, Philippines, for the 307th BG's celebration of the end of this almost four year conflict. We know Lt. Stevie is with all of you in spirit today.

These and other missions are documented well in The Long Rangers A Diary of the 307th Bombardment Group (H), by Sam Britt. A new copy is available on our website at our cost for \$28.95 and includes shipping. Please make sure anyone interested is aware of this as the copy on Amazon is used and is selling for \$120. plus \$3.99 for shipping! Membership is inexpensive at \$35. Here are the links should anyone be interested.

[Memberships](#)

[Books for Sale](#)

As a courtesy, I have attached a few more items which I'm sure you and your family members will enjoy. I hope we can count on your support in preserving the memory of our 307th Bombardment Group veterans.

Blue skies,

Jim

- ANOTHER MEMBERS REPLY -

Hi Daniel,

Yes, of course we can add your father's photos to our website. I have extensive records for all four Bombardment Squadrons. For future clarity-13th AAF (Army Air Force,), 307th Bombardment Group, 370th, 371st, 372nd and 424th Bombardment Squadrons. They were referred to as the Jungle Air Force and their nickname was, The Long Rangers, due to the numerable long distance combat missions completed, many 17-18 hours of duration. As to your father's records, it would be of assistance if you could provide me any additional information you may have, ie. Air Crew or Ground Crew, If Air Crew, your father's Pilot's name (most records will be categorized that way), when he was overseas, etc. Unless you have already searched through all the photos, we may already have photo(s) of your father on our website. I think all together we have about 10,000 posted. Unfortunately, it is not a searchable database. If you do not have this information, the photos you have might provide the base location. Any letters home with a readable return address (APO or Army Post Office#), and/or readable postmarks would do the same. Do you have your father's ASN (Army Serial Number)? It would be on his dog tags if you have them.

As we have the 307th BG's complete records I am sure we will find your father's records. If he was Air Crew we have his Letter's of Commendation, Mission Reports, Crew Loading Lists, Aerial Photography and Combat Mission Videos. This will take some serious digging but it will be very fruitful and an eye opener for you and your family members in the end. As it is labor intensive, I do request that you join the 307th BG Assoc. Our officers and myself are all volunteers working our own full-time jobs. We and our 307th BG Assoc. have gone to great personal and Assoc. expense to secure these records and the Associations only source of revenue is the nominal annual dues. I hope there are other members of your family who may also join. You should also secure a copy of The Long Rangers A Diary of the 307th Bombardment Group (H) written by Sam Britt.

The 307th BG was the most forward deployed heavy bomber base in the SW Pacific. Your father was surrounded by Japanese on three sides. If your father was air crew, he would likely have been on 18 hour missions to Borneo to destroy the Japanese oil installations at Balikpapan and Tarakan. The missions during this period were treacherous and few of our veterans have ever discussed them with family members. I'm sure this is one of the reasons you are struggling to secure information. Letter's home were usually bogus. I've read several from men who wrote their families about how the Southwest Pacific was a tropical paradise, the food and swimming great, etc. In reality they were flying missions every other day with upwards of 50% loss rates and dealing with tropical diseases, daily bombings of their base and the loss of their friends. On a regular basis, the men would learn of the atrocities committed by the Japanese on our captured airmen, many of whom your father would have known. If your father was was a member of a ground crew, he was very attached to his air crews and these B-24 bombers. On many occasions, he likely endured having the men of these 10 man air crews and their aircraft depart, never to return. As a part of every day, both the air crews and ground personnel knew if they were captured by the Japanese, they would be tortured for information and beheaded. Without yet knowing your father's MOS (Military Occupational Specialty), I already know that your father is an unsung hero and one of the reasons my own father survived this war. You will find that all our members feel the same way. You and yours are family to us and we look forward to informing you about your father's military service. I hope you will share this communication with all your family members. As a courtesy, I have attached five Letters of Commendation. I hope you will see fit to print them and have them framed. I am also attaching a brief memoir (441010 Combat Mission) from Lt. Tom Harris which will begin to give you an idea as to what your father and these aircrews accomplished. You should know on the 441003 Combat Mission just prior to this one, only one of twenty-four B-24 Bombers returned to our airbase at Noemfor, New Guinea. Though they had been flying daily combat missions to multiple targets, it took the 307th BG a full week to be assigned new crews and bombers. Of course they would have known of the devastating 441003 losses. On 441010 they stepped back up into their bombers to attack the same target expecting at least a 50% loss rate as the Japanese were now expecting their return.

Memberships

Books for Sale

I hope you and yours will consider joining the 307th BG Assoc. and attending our reunion next October in San Diego. I know you would enjoy speaking with the men with whom your father served.

FYI, my sister Michelle and her husband, Jack Cassella, live in Stockbridge, Mass. He was a dentist in Lenox until retirement last year. Call if you'd like.
Blue skies,

Jim

Ray,

Merry Christmas to you and yours! It is with great pleasure that I will be able to inform you of your father's distinguished service with the 307th Bombardment Group. Here are some the most easily forwarded records pertaining to your father. As you know, they were in the 371st Bombardment Squadron. Our father's served together and likely flew some missions together. My father, Lt. Michael J. McCabe, was a 424th BS Navigator on the McCullough Crew. Do you have your father's flight log? Please provide his full legal name?

The 307th BG was referred to as the Jungle Air Force and their nickname was, The Long Rangers, due to the numerable long distance combat missions completed, many 17-18 hours of duration. As we have the 307th BG's complete records I am sure we have your father's records including his Letter's of Commendation, Mission Reports, Crew Loading Lists, Aerial Photography and Combat Mission Videos. This will take some serious digging but it will be very fruitful and an eye opener for you and your family members in the end. As it is labor intensive, I do request that you join the 307th BG Assoc. The yearly dues is inexpensive at \$35. Our officers and myself are all volunteers working our own full-time jobs. We and our 307th BG Assoc. have gone to great personal and Assoc. expense to secure these records and the Associations only source of revenue is the nominal annual dues. I hope there are other members of your family who may also join. We need their support too. You should also secure a copy of The Long Rangers A Diary of the 307th Bombardment Group (H) written by Sam Britt. It contains an account of a combat mission for your father's crew..

The 307th BG was the most forward deployed heavy bomber base in the SW Pacific. Your father was surrounded by Japanese on three sides. Among your father's combat missions were 18 hour missions to Borneo to destroy the Japanese oil installations at Balikpapan and Tarakan. The missions during this period were treacherous and few of our veterans have ever discussed them with family members. I'm sure this is one of the reasons you are struggling to secure information. Letter's home were usually bogus. I've read several from men who wrote their families about how the Southwest Pacific was a tropical paradise, the food and swimming great, etc. In reality they were flying missions every other day with upwards of 50% loss rates and dealing with tropical diseases, daily bombings of their base and the loss of their friends. On a regular basis, the men would learn of the atrocities committed by the Japanese on our captured airmen, many of whom your father would have known. As a part of every day, both the air crews and ground personnel knew if they were captured by the Japanese, they would be tortured for information and beheaded. I consider your father as an unsung hero as he is one of the reasons my own father survived this war. You will find that all our members feel the same way. You and yours are family to us and we look forward to informing you about your father's military service. I hope you will share this communication with all your family members. As a courtesy, I have attached a Combat Mission Report. The brief memoir (441010 Combat Mission) from Lt. Tom Harris will begin to give you an idea as to what your father and these aircrews accomplished.

Here are the links for joining the Assoc and the to secure the Long Ranger Book:

<http://www.307bg.net/member/>

<https://px.store.307bg.net/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbEONWDHL70>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dU-7Cci7YEs> -your father was likely on this combat mission

I hope you and yours will consider joining the 307th BG Assoc. and attending our reunion next October in San Diego. I know you would enjoy speaking with the men with whom your father served. Call me if you'd like, my # is below.

Blue Skies,

These are just some of the work that our wonderful historian Jim McCabe does. We are so very fortunate to have Jim on our team and look forward to him continuing to assist our members find the answers of the past.

FEATURED BOOK BY MR. GREG BABINSKI

BUY THIS BOOK NOW



The Flight of the Malfunction: My 20 Year Journey to Honor All The Long Rangers

By Greg Babinski

More than 20 years ago, an envelope of charred military records launched me on a

journey across four continents to learn about my father and his comrades in **the 307th Bomb Group – The Long Rangers** - before, during, and after WWII. In time for the 307th Bomb Group reunion in Shreveport in April 2017, my book was complete: *The Flight of the Malfunction: Sergeant Walter Babinski - A B-24 Ball Turret Gunner in WWII.*

Wally Babinski was just one of the millions of farm boys, factory workers, and kids just out of school who came together 75 years ago when America called them to duty. Trained to use the most advanced military technology of the time, they were sent to the far corners of the world to fight the enemies of freedom.

Flight of the Malfunction honors all the 307th vets. In addition to the military records, photos, and fragments that I got from my mom after dad passed away, I read every book about the 307th I could lay my hands on. I scrounged copies of the B-24 aircraft manuals that he used at Keesler AFB as an aircraft mechanic student, and discovered that he almost flunked out! I obtained copies of the gunnery manuals that he used at Laredo AFB. The Historian of Edwards AFB sent me valuable material about Muroc Field where dad and his buddies came together in Bomber Crew Phase Training in 1944. Librarians and historians from the cities and towns where he was stationed sent me newspaper clipping from the time so that I knew what life was like then. I had a list of the 42 combat missions that dad flew in 1944 and 1945. I supplemented this with interviews with many of his crewmates and also of the officers and ground personnel who supported the combat crews. Some of these interviews are now in the Library of Congress Veterans Oral History Collection. The USAAF Historical Office sent me many of the mission flight plans and most of the combat reports for the 42 missions. I travelled to Australia and got access to their archives, where I found drawings of the Long Ranger base area on Morotai. I even made it to Morotai and walked onto the airstrip where he flew half his combat missions.

I charted the progress of the Malfunction crew across the Southwest Pacific on a 1944 era National Geographic map which NGS gave me permission to reproduce in my book. I also received permission from the USAAF Art Collection at the Pentagon to reproduce 20 of the watercolor paintings of Sgt. Robert Laessig, which had never before been published in color. I am grateful to the many Long Ranger friends I made over those 20 years, but especially Cliff Llewellyn, Jim Walsh and Jim Walsh senior, Gene Schreiner, Dick Reis, Boris Hidalgo, Jim Fielding, Don Aubrey, Allan Guild, and John Vanderpoel.

General MacArthur drove the Long Rangers hard. He pushed them to new bases farther and farther west across the South Pacific – Los Negros, Wakde, Noemfoor, and Morotai – and always surrounded by the Japanese. He asked his crews to do things with the B-24 that they were never designed to do. The crew of the Malfunction accomplished long lonely missions with courage, humor, and humility. And then they came back to family and friends to live quiet, meaningful lives. There are two versions of my book available in the 307th Bomb Group PX. They are both 8.5" x 11" format, 417 pages, with three original maps, 11 other contemporary maps, the 20 Robert Laessig paintings, 274 other illustrations, a full bibliography and endnotes. The paperback version is all black and white. The deluxe hardcover version includes color versions of the original maps, the Laessig paintings, and 19 other contemporary photos in color.

For more resources, check out the slide show presentation of my trip to Morotai and the site of the 13th AAF base there. It is located on the 307th BG web site or you can access the slides here:

[\[Flight of the Malfunction Trip\]](#)

You can also view my interactive online Story Map The Flight of the Malfunction here: [\[Interactive Online Story\]](#).

I hope to see you all at the Long Ranger reunion on 2018!

Wayne Mich

1. NAME (Last, first, middle initial)
Wayne Mich

2. GRADE OR RATE
Pvt 5

3. DATE OF ENLISTMENT
21 Jan 43

4. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE
21 Jan 43

5. PLACE OF BIRTH
Wt. Connor

6. COUNTY AND STATE
Wayne Mich

7. HOME ADDRESS
Box #9

8. MILITARY HISTORY
1. Ganner 611 Air Crew Member Badge

9. CAMPAIGNS
Bismarck Archipelago Mandated Islands Philippines

10. CITATIONS
Good Conduct Ribbon Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Liberation Ribbon 4 Battle Stars Air Force 2 Overseas Service Bars

11. TRANSMITTAL DATA
STIM

12. DATE OF ISSUE
1943

13. DATE OF EXPIRATION
1945

14. OTHER (Specify)
DATE OF ISSUE

15. DATE OF EXPIRATION
1945

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS to the 307th Bomb Group

We would like you to all welcome to the family our new members. These folks have joined us and we hope that they will come to our upcoming reunion in San Diego California.

Joining us in Jan 2018

Donald Black
[573 Longley Rd](#)
Gronton, MA 01450-1024

Joining us in December 2017

Jim Harris
[6332 Giovanni Way](#)

Palmdale, CA 93551

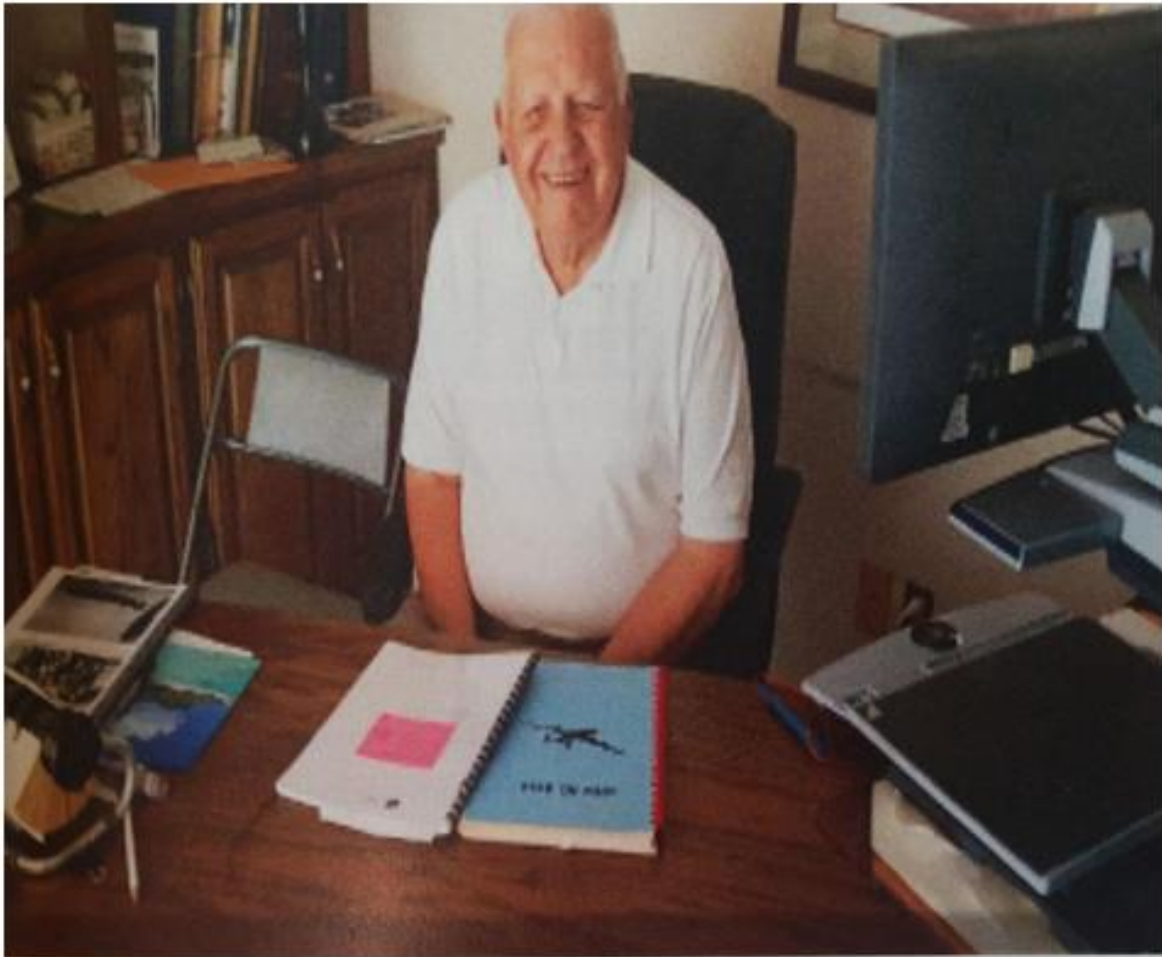
Scott Hurlbert
[19 Burchard Ave](#)

Mayville, WI 53050

Rick Kruse
[1824 Arbordale Drive](#)

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

The Reunion Team and Staff of the 307th Bombardment group sincerely welcome each of these new member's and hope that we can be of assistance to keep the memories of their loved ones and hero's alive through our organization. Welcome aboard, and fly high with us to server our military.



Every so often a friend in life comes along who inspires you encourages you, and amazes you, all at the same time. It doesn't always happen, but when it does, you know it. This friend for me was my dear friend, my best friend, Basil D. Red.

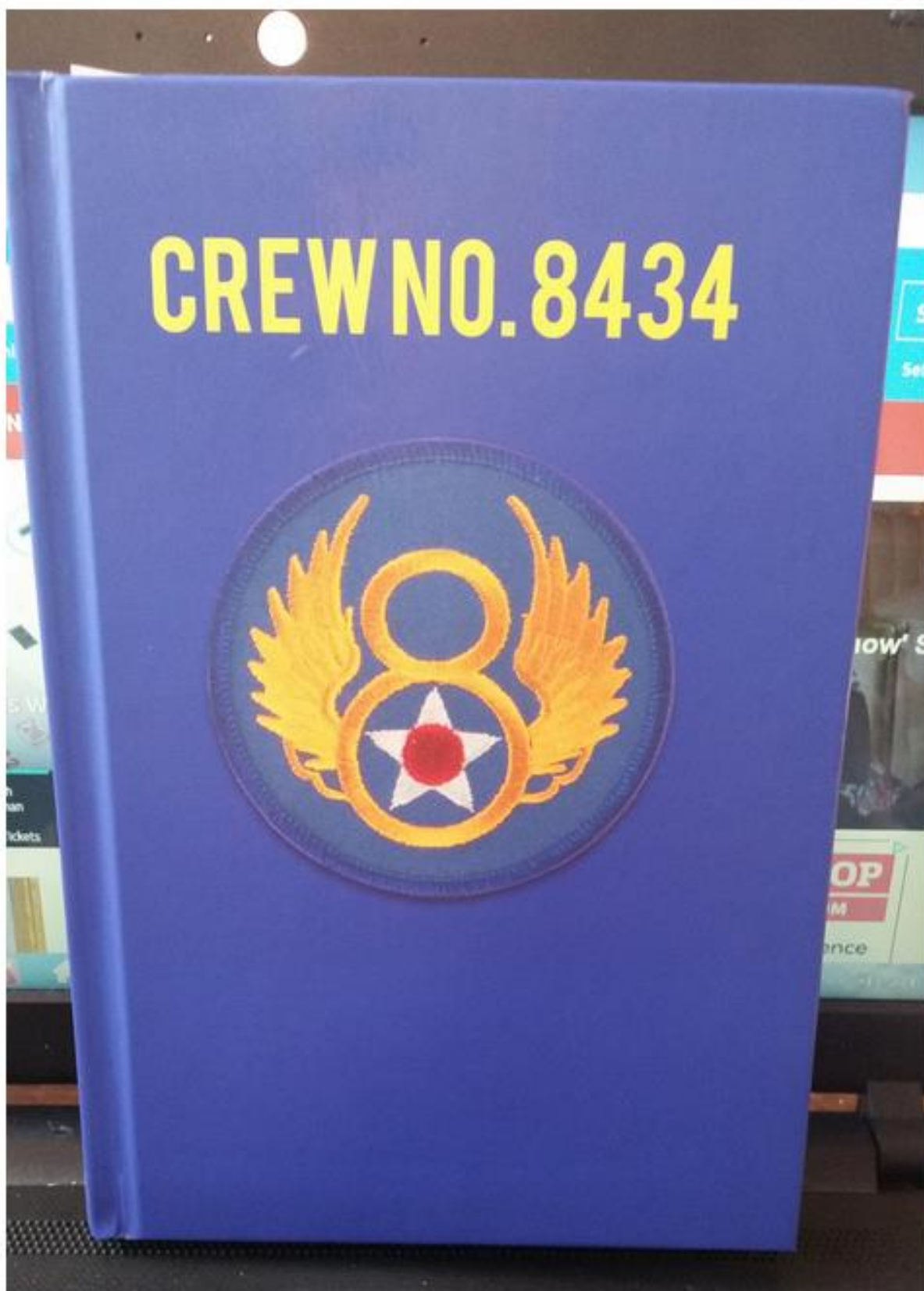
He was so good at all he did. He was an fabulous photographer, writer and designer. He could take some of the simplest things and make them beautiful. He was just so good.

He wrote this book in two manuscripts. He hoped to share his story so that future generations could enjoy history in a different way.

He was a good man, who loved his family. This book is a tribute to him and all of the men who served in the armed forces in WW2. I hope you enjoy reading his story just as much as I enjoyed sharing it with him, and now, you.

Sincerely,

Mac Haynes





FINAL FLIGHTS

307th Bombardment Group Association

This new Final Flights page was first started following our 2014 Family Reunion in Santa Fe, NM. Seven of our revered veteran members were in attendance, and while some of our most devoted may not be able to travel, they are always remembered and we are forever grateful for the part they played in making the 307th

Bombardment Group Association a successful, family unit.

The hardest news to share and to receive is the news of one of our own taking their final flight and leaving this world to join their freinds and fellow heroes who have gone before them. This page is dedicated to all our dearly departed.

Jan 5, 2018



January 5, 2018

Major Landes

WEST PEORIA - Major Landes, 98, of West Peoria, passed away at 8:15 AM on Friday January 5, 2018 at his residence. He was born on January 4, 1920 in Bath, IL to Bert and Maude (Forsythe) Landes. He married Ruth E. Sanden in Peoria on June 28, 1942. She survives, along with one daughter Charmaine (Raymond) Curry of Brimfield, one grandson Michael (Robin) Heffron of El Paso, IL, and two Great Grandchildren Olivia and Shelby Heffron, both of El Paso, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, and two sisters.

Major was an Army Air Force veteran of WWII. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, flying 41 bombing missions while there.

He was a member of Salem Lutheran Church in Peoria. He worked in Machine Repair for Caterpillar Co. Inc., retiring in February of 1982 after 41 years of service. He loved feeding the birds and squirrels near his home.

Major was a part of the Howard Johnson crew that flew with the 307th Bombardment Group, 371st Bomb Sdrn. He obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant as a Top Turret Gunner (TTO).



JOHNSON'S CREW. Front: Howard Johnson, Kenneth Sanderson, Harold Reeves, Robert Smith. Back: Edward Cosgrove, Leonard Meyers, Donald Jillson, Major Landes, Joseph Mikulski, Sanford Hiles. (Howard Johnson photo)

Financials as of January 15, 2018

Hello everyone!

Happy New Year. I hope all had a great holiday season and keeping warm as we roll into 2018. Going forward into 2018, as we send our quarterly newsletter, we want to have a section to give you a report on how our Finances are progressing as well as Membership Updates. So far, we have had 8 memberships paid for 2018. You may go to our website at www.307.bg.net and pay dues through the PX, or send a check: Greta H. Walsh

Treasurer 307th Bombardment Group

2032 Mason Lane

Spring Hill, TN 37174

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at treasurer@307bg.net

Thank you,
G

Last Name	First Name	Spouse/SO	Family	Date Dues received	Renewal/New	PayPal
Black	Donald			1/11/2018	New	X
Harris	Jim			12/17/2017	New	X
Kruse	Rick			12/9/2017	New	X
McCabe	Jim		Cara McCabe, Michael McCabe	1/13/2018	Renewal	X
McGuire	Earl			12/12/2018	Renewal	check
Potee	Milton	Vivian		1/13/2018	Renewal	X
Robson	Clayton			11/12/2017	Renewal	X
Walsh	Jim	Greta		11/13/2017	Renewal	X
Bank Account as of	1/14/2018	\$2,482.73				
Transfer from PayPal	1/14/2018	\$302.90				
Balance	1/17/2018	\$2,785.63				
	Memberships	\$355				
	Donations	\$0.00				
	PX	\$302.90				

Time to renew your membership or better yet, come join us. It's easy, just click the link below

Renew/Join with your membership