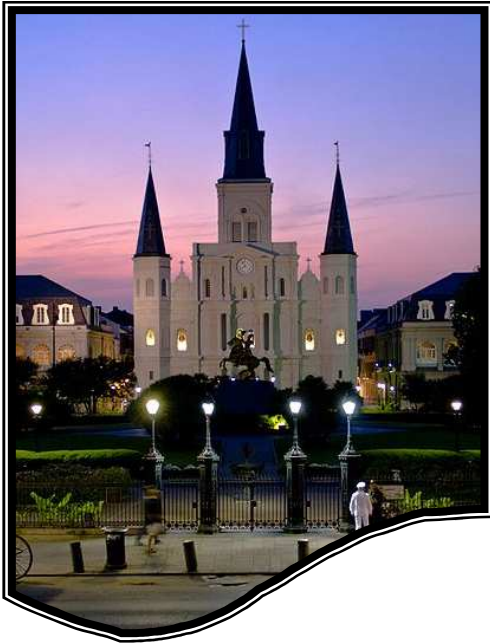


# Happy New Year 2015

## Next Stop—New Orleans!



**Hello 307th BG Veterans,  
Family Members and Friends!**

We are kicking off the new year with some great news, a few long awaited changes, the exciting plans for our next Family Reunion and a whole lot more to talk about!

**Let's start with an  
important announcement:**

In Santa Fe, your executive team pulled off one of the best reunions in a long time , and they haven't taken a break since they left New Mexico. The new team has been actively involved in a variety of projects, with the most important task being the planning and preparations for New Orleans. Back to that in a moment!

**As you all know, the only funds that allow us to pay for our day to day services and deposits for upcoming events comes from our annual dues.**

There hasn't been a change in the by-laws concerning the due date for Annual Dues Renewals. It has always been January 1st. This year, as we finalize the plans for several projects, we are asking if you would please renew your memberships, add additional family members or take advantage of Couples or Family Memberships as early as possible. There will be a section in the New Orleans Registration Form, or you can go directly to the Membership/Renewal Page at

[http://www.shop.307bg.net/Membership\\_c4.htm](http://www.shop.307bg.net/Membership_c4.htm)

Thanks for your continued support.

# Let's get right to the Reunion News!

Can't you just hear Fats Domino singing  
"Walkin to New Orleans?"

Join the fun in New Orleans at the  
**307th BG - 2015 Family Reunion**

**Our 2015 Reunion Host is**  
**Ann Williams Warner**

The good news is that Ann has nailed down a memorable trip for us, from start to finish. The extra good news is we are staying at another Drury Hotel.

**Just a reminder: This is what FREE tastes like at a Drury Hotel**

Wake up each morning to a FREE HOT QUICKSTART® Breakfast  
At the Drury, "hot" means you take your pick from a selection of great breakfast items including scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage and make-your-own Belgian waffles.

**FREE 5:30pm Kickback® Hot Food & Cold Beverages**

**Free Wireless Internet**

**Free 60 Minutes of Long Distance**

**Free Soda/Popcorn in Lobby (daily 3-10 pm)**

**Free Local Phone Calls**

**HBO, Our Exclusive Premium Movie Channel**

**CNN, ESPN, Weather Channel & More**

**Flat Panel LCD TVs in every room**

**Free In-room Coffee Service**

**2-Room Suites Available (upgraded rate)**

**24 Hour Business Center**

**All Rooms with Microwaves & Refrigerators**

**24 Hour Fitness Center**

**Fax Services**

**Guest Laundry**

**Guest Voice Mail**

**Hair Dryers in All Rooms**

**On-Site Covered Parking - Valet Only (\$25 + tax per night)\***

**Iron & Ironing Board in All Rooms**

**Courtyard Outdoor Pool & Whirlpool (9 am - 10 pm)**

**Same Day Dry Cleaning Available**

**And our Group Rate is \$119 per night (single or double occupancy)**





# Drury Inn & Suites New Orleans

820 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, LA 70112

[Drury Website - Driving Directions & Map](#)

Call Now - 504-529-7800

**Early Registration Deadline: March 15th, 2015**

**Reunion Dates: September 16 thru 20, 2014  
(Wednesday thru Saturday - Depart Sunday)**

**Please call the Hotel to make your reservation  
as early as possible.**

**We will need to confirm our final  
total group numbers by April 1st, 2015.**

**The hotel will not charge your credit card until  
you check out on the 20th of September, 2015**

**Be sure to mention the 307th Bomb Group  
to get our Group Rate (\$119)**

[Click HERE to download and print the \[mail-in\]  
Paper Registration Form](#)

[Click HERE to open the New Interactive  
On-Line Registration Form](#)

(If the links above don't work for you, please use the links  
in the body text of the email)

# New Orleans Itinerary

**Arrival day: Wednesday, September 16th, 2015**



Registration

Check-in

Hugs, Kisses

Enjoy the property and get captured by the excitement of the “French Quarter” (just around the corner)

**Day 2: Thursday, September 17th, 2015**

Breakfast (on the house)

## The National WWII Museum

**A FULL DAY!**

Ranked #1 Attraction in New Orleans, The National WWII Museum features a rich collection of artifacts that bring history to life. You will find thought-provoking and interactive exhibits that explore the American Experience in *the war that changed the world*.

Wheels Up at 08:45am

**09:00am-10:45am Arrival**

Casual self-tour of World War II Galleries

**11:00am** [Beyond All Boundaries](#) movie in the Big Theater

(Click the title to see the trailer)

**11:45am - 12:45pm**

Buffet Lunch

**12:45pm to 1:45PM**

[Victory Belles \(Andrew Sisters\)](#) Show

**1:45pm - 2:45pm**

Continue Museum Tour

**2:45pm**

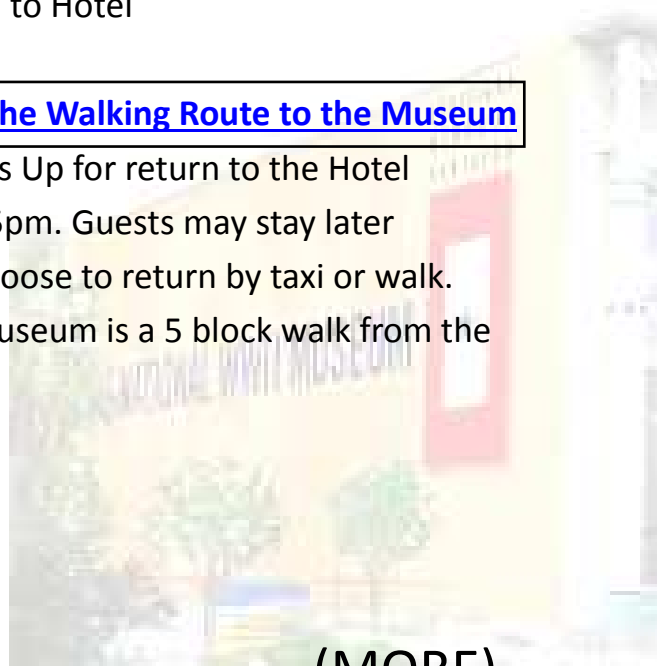
Return to Hotel

[View the Walking Route to the Museum](#)

Wheels Up for return to the Hotel

at 2:45pm. Guests may stay later and choose to return by taxi or walk.

The Museum is a 5 block walk from the Hotel.



(MORE)

## New Orleans Itinerary (continued)

### Day 2—Thursday Afternoon and Evening

Enjoy the FREE spread at the Drury, or take a stroll to the French Quarter and check out the local fare. Or Ride a Trolley-Car down Canal Street. Renew old friendships and check out the 307th memorabilia in the hospitality room!

**Late Evening:** Join in on the late night banter at the 307th After-Hours Suite

### Day 3: Friday, September 19th, 2015

Breakfast (on the house)

#### A Day at Leisure to Explore The Crescent City with Loads of Options

- Choose to return to the WWII Museum
- Select the \$6 Extra Day Pass from Thursday's tour selections.
- Weather permitting, Explore the French Quarter. Take a Carriage ride, or take a walk. Either way, there's a lot to see!
- Or, choose from [50 FREE Things To Do in New Orleans](#)

For lunch, you might choose to stay [in the French Quarter](#), where every type of cuisine can be found, including some you'd never expect to find at all.

Expand your culinary options and choose wisely from a selection of over [1600 Restaurants in New Orleans](#). You'll be sure to create an outstanding memory.

Or, take a recommendation from our host, Ann Williams-Warner, and make your way to [Deanies in the French Quarter](#).

[View Deanies Lunch Menu](#) Prices range from \$9.75 to \$18.75 Paid on-site. It's sure to please!

Don't let it stop there! Back at the hotel, our private Hospitality room will be open. Kick back and have a few laughs and/or a few beverages.

### Friday afternoon and Evening

Enjoy the FREE spread at the Drury, or catch up on what you missed yesterday. There's more to the French Quarter than you might think. Check out Jackson Square, and don't miss Café Du Monde or the French Market.

Don't forget to visit the hospitality room, and catch up with old and new Association members!

**Late Evening:** Hit the 307th After-Hours Suite again. We'll be there!

## **New Orleans Itinerary** (continued)

### **Day 4: Saturday, September 20th, 2015**

There is surely more to New Orleans than the French Quarter.

Take a day to enjoy the rest of the city or pick up where you left off on your list of 50 FREE things to do in New Orleans.

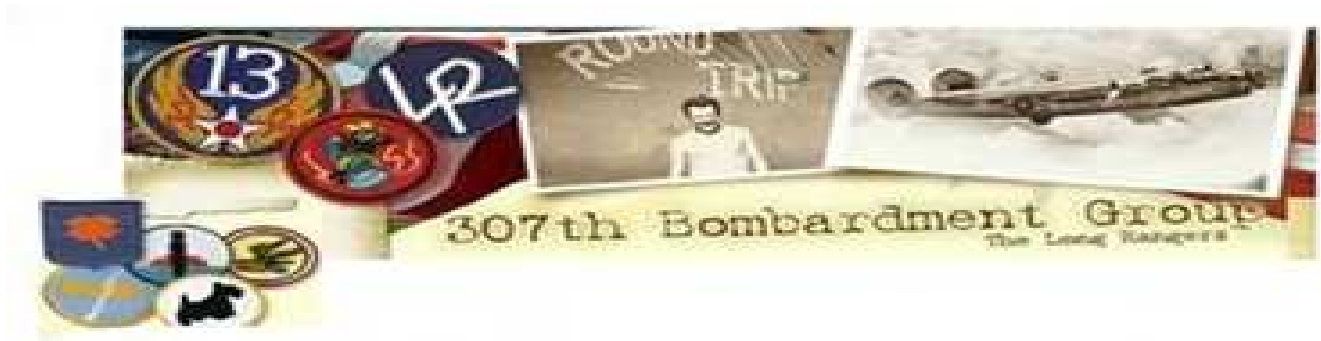
If you have a few free minutes -- stop by the hospitality room!

### **Saturday Evening**

The 307th BG Reunion Dinner (Cash Bar)

(don't be too late to use up your FREE drink coupons)

The Long Rangers' Show



## More News

On the following pages:

- The Historian's Corner
- A note about the Fold3 project.
- The New 307th Reunion Gallery
- The New Final Flights WebPage
- A note from our president.



# Historian's Corner

As you may know, the 307th Bombardment Group made a significant and historic decision to present a collection of personal war memorabilia to the Indiana War Museum during our Indianapolis Reunion Trip.

The significance of the presentation, although heart warming and emotional for many in attendance, was a display of our pride, honor and love for our veteran heroes of the 307th Bomb Group.

These items consisted of personal memorabilia contributed to the 307th BG to include in our inventory as assets and resources of the history surrounding the missions and events experienced during this ungodly war.

It is with great pride and confidence that we now, once again ask for your participation in a renewed program to catalog and store as much personal memorabilia from our veteran members as possible.

Whether or not your veteran has passed on or is still an active member of our beloved association, please help us, if you can.

Much of the material brought home by our veterans are either stored in a safe-keeping location, already divided among family members or stuffed in an old foot locker avoiding dust.

These items are the heart and soul of what helps us to sustain the memories of the heroes in our lives.

Please put aside a day to go through these materials and package them up and send them to us for cataloguing and storage. We will photograph each item and assign a catalog number for reference and store them for safe keeping and future display. Medals, Silk Maps, Over-sized Patches, Letters, Mission Reports, Norton Bomb Sights, Sextants, Leather jackets and bags in good condition and Old Military Photos are just a few of the most treasured items.

Once you have made your selections and accompanied inventory list or 307th storage, please contact me and I will forward shipping instructions.

*Jim McCabe*

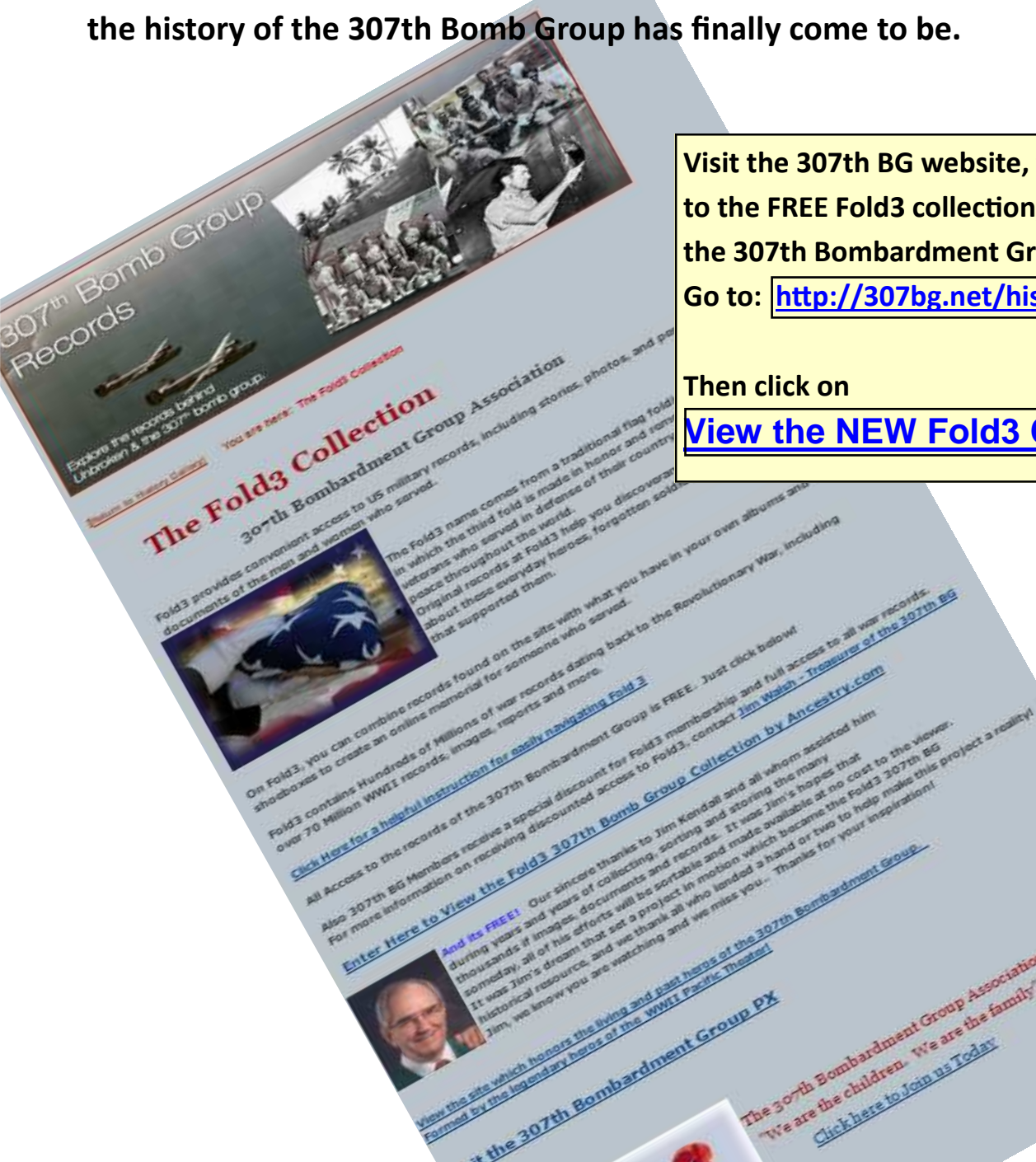
james-mccabe@comcast.net



## A message from our Treasurer, Jim Walsh

As you may remember, while in Santa Fe, we made a point to celebrate the final achievement of the Fold3 team at Ancestry.com.

The long lasting dream of Jim Kendall to see his nearly 25 years of work as the 307th BG Historian catalogued, searchable and FREE to all who show interest in the history of the 307th Bomb Group has finally come to be.



Visit the 307th BG website, for the direct link to the FREE Fold3 collection, dedicated to the 307th Bombardment Group.

Go to: <http://307bg.net/history/index.asp>

Then click on

[View the NEW Fold3 Collection](http://307bg.net/history/index.asp)

## The 307th Reunion Gallery

Back in the day, when membership was at its peak, Jim Kendall would collect all the photos from reunion trips and publish a printed book as a remembrance of the event. It took weeks to compile the data and it was a very costly project.

New technology has come to the 307th BG.

Visit the NEW addition to the 307th BG Website

[The Reunion Gallery](#)

While still under construction and in the careful hands of Amy Kendall-Flanagan, the Gallery contains Indianapolis photos from 2013 and the start of the Santa Fe collection from 2014.

Be sure to send your favorite photos taken at past reunions to Amy.

Contact Amy for easy instructions for sending image files.

[mimes.amy@gmail.com](mailto:mimes.amy@gmail.com)

### 307TH BOMB GROUP (HV) THE LONG RANGERS



SANTA FE REUNION  
SEPTEMBER 17 - 20, 2014  
[WWW.307BG.ORG](http://WWW.307BG.ORG)



## The New Final Flights Webpage

The saddest news received following our Santa Fe Trip was the loss of 307th BG Veteran Tom Pelle. Tom was a most gentle man and loved by all. After learning of his vast collection of musical stringed instruments, Tom was given the honorary title of Director of Music. Our new Final Flights page is dedicated to Tom, who warmed our hearts. Our condolences go out to his dear wife Betty and his family.

Please visit the page at

<http://www.307bg.net/reunion/gallery/finalflights.asp>



**Boris V. Hidalgo**  
1924 - 2014

Boris V. Hidalgo died of natural causes on Oct. 7, 2014, in Round Rock, Texas, surrounded by his family, just days after celebrating his 90th birthday.

Boris was born to Vicente Vega Hidalgo and Raquel Lopez Hidalgo in 1924, in Brownsville, Texas. In 1929, he moved with his parents and siblings, Hector and Xochitl, to Detroit, Michigan, where his father began work for the Ford Motor Company. Two years later the family returned to Brownsville, where Boris attended local schools and graduated from Brownsville High School in 1942.

After high school, he served in the 307th Bombardment Group as a flight engineer/gunner in the Theatre.



**William Julian "Bill" Watson**  
1925 - 2014

William J. (Bill) Watson, Jr. 89 of Roanoke went home to be with the Lord Tuesday, December 2, 2014. Bill was a member of the 307th BG Association. He served his country in World War II as a B-24 Nose gunner with the 307th Bombardment Group's, 372nd Bomb Squadron.

Bill was a graduate of Roanoke College, retired from the N & W Railway, and a longtime member of North Roanoke Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his wife Betty Jane Davis Watson, and his parents, William J. Sr. and Delma Langford Watson. Surviving are his sons, Gary W. Watson and wife Robin of Roanoke; Daniel E. Watson and wife Kari of Clayton, N.C.; grandchildren, Gray and Allie Watson; sister, Doris Sue Watson Atkins and husband Tom; brother, Carl F. Watson and wife Betty Rice Watson all of Roanoke; sister-in-law, Velma Davis of Salem and numerous other family member and friends including devoted friend, Sabrina Thompson. Bill's family requests memorials be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital P.O. Box 1000 Dept. 142 Memphis TN.



## From the desk of the president

The following is a formal invitation to the members of the  
**307th Bomb Wing Association**

Dear friends,

Thank you for your invitation to join you at Lincoln AFB in June. So far we have three members of our executive team planning on attending. It will be an ideal opportunity for us to share a few stories and find some common ground. We sincerely hope that you will find a way to join us in New Orleans, for what will prove to be a remarkable experience for us all.

Our hopes are that you will find the camaraderie of our family-focused group an outward and visible expression of our dedication, honor and praise for our living and past heroes of the 307th Bomb Group.

Our mission is simple. To forever and always remember and honor our fallen fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers.

We look forward to making new friends at the 307th Bomb Wing Association and we hope that we can find an equitable way to join forces, share responsibilities and resources and create a formidable union of the 307th Bomb Group and Bomb Wing.

With sincerest regards,

*John Poggi*