

307th Reunion News Letter

March 2010 WWW.307BG.ORG

Notes from the Groups President

To all:

Once again, I know that this has been long in coming. The years tend to creep up upon us every so quickly as I am sure you all know things just do not seem to get any better as we get older. We, your reunion leaders, have worked hard this year to start planning the reunion coming up in August of 2010. Plans are well under way and we are all looking forward to a wonderful reunion in Branson Missouri.

I urge you to pay your dues if you have not already done so. In order for us to keep the strong front that we have and not lose focus, we need all of your support. This means the FAMIY. Children of the 307th are now starting to step up and we need you desperately. Without your support, our parents will be forgotten and lost. I find in today's teachings at our schools, that WWII is not even being mentioned anymore. This is truly sad. Please lend any help you can and especially plan to come to the reunion this year.

Pat Ranfranz (Historian) has done and continues to do a fantastic job with the website and like all of us is burdened with trying to keep it up and running win these busy times. Pat, thank you for all your efforts. If you have access to the internet and can visit the website I encourage you to do so. The website address is at the top of the newsletter. Pat has put thousands of pictures of crew members and memorabilia for all of us to enjoy and to carry on the spirit of our fallen heroes.

Pat Ranfranz did embark, in October, back to Yap where we hope he will be able to deliver some exciting new news of a lost crew. At our last reunion the group voted to donate money toward Pat's efforts and I am sure it will very well utilized as these trips cost Pat in excess of \$10,000.00 per month. Good Luck and Good Searching Pat.

David, Cathy, Milt Potee, and I, did a site visit to Branson Missouri. This reunion is going to prove be one of our best ever. Branson has just completed a new airport that will fly you in directly to the city and we are working on the transportation opportunities for you as well. AirTran, Frontier, and Sun Country are the airlines that fly into Branson and a shuttle can be obtained at the airport to take you to the hotel.

Jim Walsh President (615)268-9110

From our Historian

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

The Long Rangers

Missing Air Crew Project Search Trips 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009

Pat and Cherie Ranfranz traveled to Yap Island in 2005,2006, 2008 and 2009 to search for Pat's uncle, T/Sgt John R. McCullough, who was shot down by a Japanese fighter over Yap Island and declared missing on 25 June 1944. Pat and Cherie have expanded their original project goals to include the search for all men lost on missions to Yap Island. Select one of the links below to view information and pictures from our search trips.



Patrick & Cherie Ranfranz searching for Pat's uncle's B-24 crash site off the SE reef of Yap Island in September 2006

MissingAirCrew.com Mission Statement: Pat & Cherie Ranfranz are committed to locating and documenting the crash site of the Coleman B-24 and other American planes on or near Yap Island. Pat has spent over 20 years researching the 25 June 1944 shoot down and loss of his uncle, T/Sgt John R. McCullough, and the other nine members of the Coleman B-24. The original goal of locating the Coleman B-24 has been expanded to locating and documenting all the American crash sites on or near Yap Island. The MissingAirCrew.com project is committed to documenting the history of the men and their missions through documents, pictures, and oral history before the information is lost in time. The most important goal of the project is to help provide closure to the families of the missing men who lost their lives in service of their country during WWII. Close to 100 men were lost near Yap Island and remain listed as missing in action.

Please share your 307th BG stories, documents, and pictures: Your legacy should not be lost in an attic, or stored in a garage, where it may later be disposed of as trash. Ask your children, your grand-children and even your great grand-children to participate in this effort to preserve your history. Submit 307th Bomb Group documents, pictures and related information to: Patrick Ranfranz, 307th Bomb Group Historian, 1473 21 1/2 Street, Cameron, WI 54822 or email: pat@307bg.org. Documents and photos will be returned on request.

Pat Ranfranz

From the desk of the Secretary - Cathy Daniel

You are a wonderful group of people and I love each and every one of you. I pray on a daily basis that you will be kept safe from harm and that you will always have love in your heart. This is a wonderful organization and I enjoy serving you and have for years. Please know that we are doing our best to keep thing going for you. Thank you my friends.

Cathy Daniel

The Milt Potee Corner

I would like for everyone to know what a tremendous help that Milt has been to this organization. He has put in tireless hours of his time selflessly to work on the reunion and assist us in making it GREAT for each and every one of you. Let us all Thank Milt for his efforts.

A letter In Memory of Jim Kendall

September 7, 2008

North Congregational Church 36520 West Twelve Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48332

RE: Donation in Memory of James Kendall

Dear Congregation:

In August, our Association met and voted to make a donation in the memory of James Kendall to his favorite charity. When we asked Dottie where we should send the donation, she told us Jim would like the Church to receive it.

Jim served us faithfully for 24 years as our Historian and Reunion Book editor. He and Dottie worked tirelessly on each and every book, always resulting in a great book of memories of our reunions. His devotion to the 307th will never be forgotten nor will the memory of this wonderful man.

The Members of The 307th Bombardment Group(HV), Association, Inc. proudly present this check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to you, the congregation of North Congregational Church in the memory of James Kendall. May God keep his watch over us all.

Sincerely,

James G. Walsh President jgw:cjsd cc: Dottie Kendall

RESPONSE:

Dottie Kendall 2350 Derby Road Birmingham MI 48009 October, 2008

Dear Members and Friends of

307th BG Association (HV)

It is hard to find the words to say thank-you to the 307th BG Association (HV) for the generous memorial gift made last summer in memory of Jim, my husband of nearly 58 years, honoring his work as Historian and Editor of the Reunion Books.

He spent many, many hours doing this work, searching for information for specific individuals who had contacted him asking about the circumstances of their lost husband, uncle, brother, father or other beloved person. Every two years he spent weeks and months assembling information, identifying persons in pictures, looking up stories and collecting photographs that he thought might be of interest to other WWII veterans and suitable for publication.

A number of you asked me while at the Savannah Reunion what had happened to his files and collections. I personally packed up his three large file cabinets, a total of about 35 file boxes and a number of miscellaneous memorabilia items which had been sent to him over the years by various members. These items were shipped to Pat Ranfranz by moving van in April, 2007. Pat is a member of your group, the new Historian and has taken several trips to the Yap area searching for downed planes and lost airmen, in much the same manner as Pat Scannon has done, and continues to do, in the Palau area. Pat is transferring all of this collected information to the www.307bg.com website and it is my understanding the original files will eventually be taken to the Air Force Historical Resource center in Mobile, Alabama, which was always Jim's wish. In addition, Jim had a personal collection of WWII books including reference books, histories, stories of individuals, publications used in training in the '40's, etc. This collection, after letting our "kids" make their own selections, the remaining 100 (approximately) books have been donated to the Yankee Air Museum in Ypsilanti, Michigan. The staff there was extremely pleased to receive it.

The Memorial Gift was donated to our church where Jim and I had been members for over 50 years when he passed away, and where I am still active. It has been placed in the Memorials Account and I am still considering what it should be used for—it may go towards improving handicapped access to the church. I was so overwhelmed when this action took place I could not utter a proper thanks. My children and grandchildren and I sincerely thank you for your generous and thoughtful gift.

Sincerely,

Dottie Kendall

Supporters who need our support

Do you know what the Bent Star and Bent Prop Project ARE?

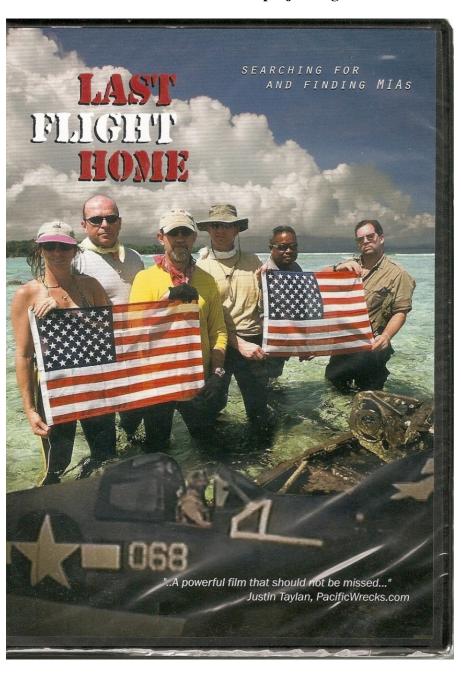
What started as a once in a lifetime opportunity to follow Dr. Pat Scannon on his quest to find Missing in Action personnel in the jungles and waters of Palau has become a quest of our own to bring these expeditions to you with the below video

"LAST FLIGHT HOME"

Order your copy today by going to www.lastflighthome.org

Or emailing to

info@bentstarproject.org





One would suppose that after 60 years, families and friends would move on, if not forget. But the sad fact is that the phrase Missing In Action (MIA) leaves the human spirit room for doubt and question. While it seems that Dr. Pat Scannon's work is in the waters and jungles of Palau, the real adventure and spirit of the project is to bring answers to the families and friends of those missing all these many years.

In 1993 Scannon first traveled to Palau as part of a team in search of the armed trawler sunk by Ensign George H.W. Bush, in July of 1944. While the team succeeded in its stated mission, Scannon was left searching for more... He discovered that during WWII many planes had gone missing over Palau and most of those MIA mysteries were left unsolved. After more than a decade of searching on and around the islands of Palau, Scannon and his BentProp team have been responsible for finding and identifying more than four dozen missing WWII aircraft, many with MIAs.

www.BentStarProject.org

You can assist in this altruistic quest!

The BentStar Project, Limited, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, was formed to support and document the efforts of Dr. Pat Scannon's BentProp Project. Our goal is to bring this altruistic quest to the public's eye, furthering education on the BentProp Project and MIAs, through the documentary film, "Last Flight Home", museum exhibits and the production of decational materials stemming from the film. The BentStar Project, Limited was formed by team members and supporters of BentProp and exists to ensure that Scannon's expeditions will be fully documented and will continue unencumbered.

To make your donation or purchase the film, please go to:

www.BentStarProject.org

Or Mail to:
BentStar Project, Limited
443 First Street
Woodland, CA 95695-4023



An Update on the latest of the Bent Prop Project from Dr. Scannon

November 2009

Here's a **dramatic twist** to a story that those of you who've seen the documentary "Last Flight Home" will recall. In the film, there are interviews with family members of the crew of a TBM that was shot down on Peleliu in September 1944, which we located and identified in 2003. The aircraft was flown by Donald Baxter, and carried crew members Wesley Stuart and Arthur Miller. After the war, only the Stuart family received remains recovered on Peleliu - and although Wesley Stuart's mother promised to care for the remains, she never truly believed that they were the remains of her son. Following a 2005 JPAC mission to the site that failed to recover remains of any crew members, Mrs.Stuart's intuition was validated when her daughter Mary Ellen had the remains exhumed, and DNA testing confirmed that the remains could not be those of Wesley. In April 2008, JPAC and the Navy did a full honor-guard ceremony to retrieve the remains and casket, which were flown to Hawaii for DNA identification. In early October 2009, JPAC confirmed that the remains were identified as those of Wesley's fellow crew member, Arthur Miller. BentProp team members Pat Scannon, Derek Abbey, and Reid Joyce attended Arthur C. Miller's full military funeral in Poughkeepsie, New York on 7 November. Got to http://www.bentprop.org/ and you will be able to view photos of the funeral.

October 2009

Sgt. Robert Stinson, fellow crew member of Jimmie Doyle and Earl Yoh (see below), comes home. Here's where you can read an article and view a video about the late-October funeral for Robert Stinson, in Riverside, California:

Article:

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/10/28/state/n131811D21.DTL Video:

http://video.ap.org/?t=By%20Section/U.S.&g=1028dv_calif_wwii_remains&f=yourlDhere

May 2009 - Flip Colmer, who took a ton of photographs at the Doyle and Yoh funerals (see below) has assembled them into a couple of moving slide-show tributes to these young men. Note that you should be able to watch the videos in full-screen mode either by right-clicking the screen and selecting "Toggle full screen" or by clicking the little square icon in the lower right of the player gizmo, next to the volume control.

The voice on Jimmie's video, and the author of the song and the lyrics, is Col. Mike Lembke, III Corps and Ft. Hood chaplain, U.S. Army, who conducted Jimmie's service. The young Marine Captain sitting with Tommy and Nancy at the graveside service is their son Casey, who escorted his grandfather's remains home from JPAC in Honolulu..

The song on Earl's video is the one selected by Earl's family to be played at the funeral service. Earl was one of 13 siblings. The two gentlemen in the front row at the graveside service are Earl's twin brothers, Gale (left, who received the flag) and Dale - the last surviving of Earl's siblings.

JPAC has reported that their three recovery missions (in 2005, 2006, and 2008) to the underwater crash site of B-24 '453 were a total success! They recovered remains of all eight crewmembers who went down with this aircraft on 1 September 1944. Five of the crewmembers were positively identified, but they have insufficient structural and DNA information to make positive identifications of the other three. JPAC knows who the three are, they just can't tell which is which. So we understand that there

will be a group service for those three, who will be buried together at Arlington National Cemetery. When we have information about that group event at Arlington, we'll post the information here.

On 25 April 2009, Jimmie Doyle, the nose gunner on B-24 '453, was laid to rest in a full military funeral in Lamesa, Texas. Many of you may recall that Bent Prop team member Joe Maldangesang, who lives in Koror, Palau, named one of his sons Doyle. One of the most moving parts of the funeral service was when Tommy Doyle (Jimmie's son) read the following note from Joe:

"The other day, Doyle asked me, why is his name Doyle, so i told him that during WWII, a very special man by the name of Jimmy Doyle, flew to Palau on airplane to help defend Palau from Japanese and he died protecting us, and he was a very special man, and because he was special to us and we loved him, mom and i decided to give his last name to you so although his not with us anymore, you will carry his name and legacy until one day when you get married and have kids and then you can tell your kids the story of your name. And by sharing the story of your name to your kids and grandkids, He will never be forgotten and his legacy lives on with us forever."

April 2010 Repatriation of Members

Please notify your PADDs that the group interment date for the **2Lt ARHAR Group** (WWII repatriation case, MACR #8641) has been set for **Thurs., 29 April 2010** @ **1100** at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). The following information is intended for you and the Families for planning purposes. The Group members include:

Rank	Last	First, MI
2Lt	Arhar	Frank J.
2Lt	Arnett	Jack S. M.
F/O	Simpson	William B.
T Sgt	Goulding	Charles T.
T Sgt	Stinson	Robert J.
S Sgt	Doyle	Jimmie
S Sgt	Price	Leland D.
S Sgt	Yoh	Earl E.

Projected Sequence of Events:

- Tue, 27 Apr 10: Travel to Arlington VA.
- Wed, 28 Apr 10, 1800-2000: Visitation at Murphy Funeral Home, Arlington, VA
- Thu, 29 Apr 10, 1100: Memorial Service at **Old Post Chapel** (Ft Myer) followed by procession to gravesite in **ANC**
- Fri, 30 Apr 10: Return travel

This just In.....

This is a note from the Government of Palau informing Dr. Scannon that the President of Palau will be in attendance at the repatriation ceremony. What an honor. Your board of the 307th Bomb group will be there as well to represent YOU at this ceremony. Cathy Daniel, C.E. Jordan, myself, and Pat Ranfranz will all be in attendance. What an honor for us to be fortunate enough to attend this ceremony

Cc: Pat Scannon

Sent: Fri Mar 19 09:52:06 2010

Subject: RE: Fw: Arlington National Cemetery Ceremony April 29, 2010

Alii Mr. Scannon,

The President will be participating in the Arlington National Cemetery Ceremony. I'm now working to get the details of his trip finalized. Please give me until next week to email you his travel arrangements.

Ngirai

DUES NOTICE

Many Members are stating that they have not gotten the DUES NOTICE. Your DUES are due NOW for the group. DUES are \$30.00, but if you have not paid for past years, You must pay for at least 2 Years or (\$60.00) Please remit them to:

Cathy Daniel 510 Riverview Road Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834

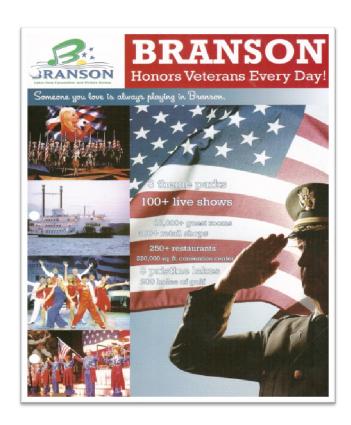
Or

PAY ONLINE at www.payPal.com to Gatorjw@gmail.com - (\$31.00)

A Convenience Fee Applys to the Online Payment System of \$1.00

PLEASE DO THIS NOW!!!

Reunion Planning: WELCOME TO BRANSON, MO. Mail your registration in or register online at WWW.307BG.ORG (a convenience fee applies)



As was stated previously, on August 15th 2009, Cathy Daniel, Milt Potee and I are heading to Branson, Mo. to start the final preparation for our fun filled event that will go off in August 2010. The date for the reunion has been set for August 4-8, 2010. We are still working toward a wonderful time for you all in Branson this year. Once again we would like to see all of you along with as many family members you can muster up, join us in Branson.

We have many shows and attractions planned and we have only touched the beginnings of this reunion for you. We will be staying at the Lodge of the Ozarks in Branson, and all of the information on the shows and attractions are in the Registration Form. We need these forms back to us NO LATER THAN JUNE 13, 2010. After that date, I cannot guarantee the reunion.

The wonderful thing about all of these shows is they all are either within the hotel or across the street from our hotel.

The Jim Stafford and Mo Bandy Show - Walk Across the Street

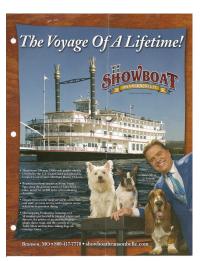
The Mickey Gilley – Next door to the Hotel

NOAH's Ark Show will have BUS TRANSPORTION PROVIDED (PRICE NOT SET YET)

The Branson Bell Riverboat, BUS TRANSPORTION PROVIDED (PRICE NOT SET YET)

NOTE --- WE ARE STILL WORKING ON TRANSPORTAITION TO TRY TO GET THE COST DOWN. They currently want \$700.00 a day for busses. WE are working all angles before we commit to this price. Transportation fees will have to be paid on site at the reunion.







*****HOTEL INFORMATION****

LODGE OF THE OZARKS

3431 W. Hwy 76

BRANSON MO. 65616

1-877-327-9894

Mention the 307th Bomb Gp Reunion for the \$80.00 Rate

OUR AIRLINES

Branson Airport is proud to have AirTran Airways and Sun Country Airlines as our inaugural airlines. Please click on the airline's logo for more information.



AirTran Airways

AirTran lands right in the heart of Branson to get you there faster with low fares available to 50+ destinations!

Click here to book online or call 1-800-AIR-TRAN (1-800-247-8726) to purchase your ticket.

Click here for route maps.

Check-in Procedures and Travel Tips



Frontier Airlines

Service begins April 20, 2010.

Earn double miles for travel between Denver and Branson from April 20, 2010 to May 20, 2010.+

To book a flight click here.

Sun Country Airlines



Returning Spring 2010

Transportation to and from the airport is currently being worked on. Individuals may have to take a taxi on their own. Private shuttles are currently not allowed. We are working to change this or modify it for our group.

307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association 2010 Branson, Missouri Official Registration Form

Registration Deadline: June 13, 2010

	/			/
Name	Spouse			Sqd
Names of other guests that v	vill be attending			
	/	/_		_/
Street Address	City /	Sta	te	Zip Code
Phone Number	Email Address	/		
Arrival Date	Departure Date Airline			
Reunion & Tour Registration	Information:			
Description		Cost each	Quantity attending	Total cost
Member Registration Fee:		\$20.00	1	\$20.00
Guest Registration Fee:		\$20.00		•
Wed, Aug 4, 2010:				
Registration Opens a	t 8am			
Hospitality Room Ope	ns at 10am			
Free Time for you to enjoy n	neeting and greeting or da a show on			
your own				
Thurs, Aug 5, 2010:				
Free time for all to do what you wish				
JIM Stafford Show 3pm OR Mo Bandy 8pm (cost for each)		\$26.00		
The Hughes Brother 6 pm Dinner and Show (see brocherue)		\$45.00 \$45.00		
NOAH the Musical 2:00 pm Plus Trans Fee. (Transportation)				
,	FIRMED YET) (PAY AT HOTEL)			
Friday, Aug 6, 2010:				
Free time for all to do l				
307 th Business Meeting – Members ONLY 3:00 pm				
THE Club – 307 th Banque	et – 5:30pm -Clay Cooper 7pm	\$25.00		
Saturday, Aug 7, 2010				
Free time for all to do				
GROUP PHOTO IN MA		60.00		
Show Boat Dinner and River cruise. 3 pm (Transportation)				
Sunday, Aug 8, 2010				
Prepare to go home				
Say Goodbyes				
Go Home				
<u> </u>				
	GRAND TOTAL:			
Make shorts on several		7th Ban	b Group	(HI/)
Make checks or mone	y oraers payabie to: <u>50</u>	,, DUII	<u>յու Ել ՄԱ</u> Լ	<u>' (ΠΥ)</u>

Please Mail BOTH forms along with payment to: 307th Bomb Group (HV)

C/O Jim Walsh 3137 Winberry Drive Franklin, Tn 37064

Banquet Meal Selection (Please return by June 13th)

Option 1	YES	NO	How Many
Roast Pork Loin Encrusted wi Fresh Garden Salad Mashed Potatoes French Green Beans Fresh Baked Roll Choice of Dessert (Chocolate, Carrot or Vanilla Coffee & Tea Service		osemary	
Option 2	YES	NO	How Many
Roast Breast of Chicken Fresh Garden Salad Corn Bread Stuffing Roasted Red Potatoes French Green Beans Fresh Baked Roll Choice of Dessert (Chocolate, Carrot or Vanilla Coffee and Tea Service	Cake)		
Option 3	YES	NO	How Many
Catfish Fresh Garden Salad French Fries Hush Puppies Fresh Baked Roll Choice of Dessert (Chocolate, Carrot or Vanilla	Cake)		

*****HOTEL INFORMATION****

Coffee and Tea Service

LODGE OF THE OZARKS 3431 W. Hwy 76 BRANSON MO. 65616 1-877-327-9894

Mention the 307th Bomb Gp Reunion for the \$80.00 Rate

Inquiries from children and family

Jim,

My name is Gerald W. Burns and I was with the 372 sqd of the 307 BG as navigator on a Tom Harris B-24 crew. We began our combat flying out of Henderson Field in Guadacanal. I flew a total of 51 missions ending my career on Leyete Island in the Philippines. Among my most notable missions were Truk, Balikapan, and the Japanese fleet in the Sulu seas. I have been a member of the 307 BG for many years and have attended many reunions. Jim Kendal, past historian, was our radio man and a long time friend of mine, until his demise two years ago. Presently, I am 95% blind and although I would like to attend future reunions, travel is out of the question.

I will send my yearly dues of \$35.00 to Kathy Daniels and would appreciate future correspondence from this organization.

Gerald W. Burns

Pat

I am trying to find out information about my Uncle.

His name was Wilbur Edgar Morgan (Nickname WIB)

He was with the 307 Bomb Group I and his squadron was 370 Bomb Sq

He was shot down after a raid over Guadacanal in 42/43

His plane was a B17 or B24 Liberator called "Dumbo" with 4 engines

He was a Radio Operator/Belly Gunner

He later died in the VA Hosp in Butler PA

Thats all the information I have and I would appreciate it if you can give me any more information or where I can obtain it

Thanking you in advance

John A. Morgan

From: Everett, Richard A CTR USA [mailto:rick.everett@us.army.mil] Subject: Members of the 307th (UNCLASSIFIED)

I am writing you to see if mu uncle, LT Arthur Nielsen US Army Air Corps who was killed in action over Borneo in 1943, was a member of the 307th and if there is any information on him or his crew. I know they left the Admiralty Islands in November 1943 to bomb the oil fields of south east Borneo. He was buried in Draper UT in 1951.

Richard A. Everett

On the Fiery Breath of Dragons – a new book written by David G. Oakley

Our website featuring my new book, "On the Fiery Breath of Dragons" is up and the welcome sign is out to all interested parties.

http://home.earthlink.net/~doakley975/index.html

This is the true story of a year in the life of 10 young warriors of the 307th Bombardment Group serving hazardous duty in the skies above the Pacific Ocean.

SSgt. George D. Oakley, Jr., the Tailgunner on a B-24 Liberator, tells us of his life as a young airman via his personal diary, letters home and face-to-face conversations.

The story covers their days, their nights, their missions, their parties, their constructive times and a few somewhat not so productive times, as well.

Yes, the young warrior of whom I write is my dad.

We would be proud to have you, one and all, take a look at our new website.

If anyone is so inclined, my book, "On the Fiery Breath of Dragons" can be acquired there. Thanks for reading my email.

Final Flight Missing but not Forgotten Our condolences go out to the families of:

David A Matthews	Feb - 2009
Beaty, Howard	Apr-2009
Don Somers	Sep-2009
Giannini, Robert J.	Dec-2009
Groepel, Melvin E.	Dec-2009
Wells, Jerry	Jan-2010
Joseph Kulina	Feb-2010
Freye, Harris K.	Apr-2009
Stephen, Richard E.	May-2008
Schmidt, Arthur J.	May-2009
Strain, Willard	Jul-2009
Johnson, Clyde E., Jr.	Dec-2009
Thomas, Archie	Dec-2009
David Matthews	Feb-2010