

REUNION NEWS

NEWS FROM
THE 307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV)
ASSOCIATION

2006 REUNION IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



April 2006

Issue 2

WELCOME TO SEATTLE FOR THE 2006 REUNION OF THE 307TH BOMB GROUP (HV)

Spring has come to Seattle and it is that time that comes around every two years for you to start making your plans to attend the 2006 Reunion of the 307th Bomb Group (HV) Association.

Planning for the 2006 Reunion is now complete and most details are in place. Read through this issue of the 307th Bomb Group Reunion News for all the information you will need to plan your visit to Seattle and make your preparations to attend the Reunion.

The official dates of the Reunion are Wednesday, August 23 through Sunday, August 27.

Our Reunion will be held in the beautiful Bellevue Hyatt Regency Hotel and we have secured special room rates of \$99 single or double occupancy. The Hotel has made these special rates available to attendees beginning on Saturday, August 19 and extending through the night of Sunday, August, 27, in case you want to sample more of Seattle's sights and attractions on your own, before or after the reunion.

The Bellevue Hyatt Regency has all the amenities you would expect, plus a great location. From comfortable rooms, convenient and spacious meeting spaces for the Reunion, two excellent restaurants, and a free on-site fitness center, the Hyatt Regency has it all. Within one block of the hotel you will find many other restaurants with a range of prices and cuisines, a twelve screen cinema, many interesting shops, and Bellevue Square, the Seattle area's premier shopping center.

What's on the agenda for the Reunion? We'll have all of the features that you've come to expect from past Reunions, plus some new things are planned:

- ☐ The Memorabilia Room will be open Wednesday through Saturday.
- ☐ We'll have a variety of tours available for you to sample Seattle area tourist attractions Wednesday through Saturday.
- ☐ Dr. Pat Scannon of the Bent Prop Project will make a report on his latest expedition to Palau to search for MIA's.
- ☐ Saturday, before the dinner, will be the traditional photo session (no cost for the sitting and no obligation to buy prints)
- ☐ The Saturday Dinner will include good food, good cheer, and music and dancing to the sounds of Kings of Swing.

What's new?

- ☐ We'll start the Reunion off this year with an opening evening social event on Wednesday. We may be joined at this event by the Mayor of Ephrata, Washington (location of the base where the 307th first became operational in 1943).
- ☐ Mr. Pat Ranfranz of the Missing Aircrew Project will make a report on his trip to Yap last year to search for signs of the missing Coleman Crew.
- ☐ We also hope to have a special room set up for oral history interviews as part of the U.S. Library of Congress Veteran's Oral History Project. I'll have more news on this in the next Newsletter.
- ☐ Express Breakfast – something fast and easy in the Memorabilia Room each morning, to allow you time to eat with time to spare to catch the first tour of the day. (To be pre-ordered for each guest – see registration form)

What do you need to do next?

- ☐ Contact the Hyatt Regency Bellevue Hotel to make your room reservations.
- ☐ Read through the Reunion News, plan the events you want to attend, then complete the attached registration form and return it me with your check.
- ☐ Make your other travel arrangements (Airline Reservations, Amtrak, etc.)

If there are any questions or concerns that you have while you are making your plans, please feel free to contact me at my office at 206-263-3753, or by email at: GBABINSKI@COMCAST.NET.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to plan this reunion for you – the members who make the 307th Bomb Group (HV) Association the great group that it is. I hope to see you all in Seattle in August to experience Washington State hospitality.

Greg Babinski

2006 Reunion Chair

307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association



RESERVE YOUR ROOMS NOW FOR THE 2006 REUNION!

Hyatt Regency Bellevue

900 Bellevue Way NE
Bellevue, Washington, USA 98004

To make your reservations, call:

Local reservation number: 425-698-4140

Toll free reservation number: 800-233-1234

When you make your reservation tell the reservation clerk that you will be attending the 2006 reunion of the:

307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

It is very important to refer to the 307th when you call. This will both ensure that you get our special room rate and that the association gets credit for your reservation to help us meet the minimum room commitment we need for free use of the meeting space.

Our special nightly guest room rates are:

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Single occupancy: | \$ 99 |
| Double occupancy: | \$ 99 |
| Triple occupancy: | \$124 |
| Quadruple occupancy: | \$149 |

Scheduled reunion events will begin on Wednesday August 23 and conclude on Sunday August 27, 2006.

The Hyatt will also make these special rates available to those attending the reunion beginning on Saturday August 19 and extending as late as Sunday night, August 27. This may be of interest to those who want to arrive early or depart late to do a little sight seeing on your own.

Guestroom Amenities:

Views of downtown Bellevue, Lake Washington, and Mount Rainier welcome you to newly renovated interiors featuring one king or two double Grand beds with ultra-plush pillows, the softest sheeting and thick down blankets piled upon pillow-top mattresses. Hotel amenities include complimentary fitness club and pool access.

Do you have special needs?

The Hyatt Regency Bellevue is committed to ensure that they meet and exceed all of the requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act. Let the hotel know of your special needs when you reserve your room.



Driving Directions from Sea-Tac Int'l Airport (17 miles):

- Follow signs to "All Freeways".
- Take Hwy. 518 to 405 North to Bellevue for 14 miles. Exit onto NE 8th St. west (exit #13B).
- Follow NE 8th for 6 1/2 blocks.
- Hotel is on right after crossing 106th Ave, at corner of NE 8th and Bellevue Way.

Shuttle Service From Airport to Bellevue Hyatt Regency:

Once you retrieve your luggage in Baggage Claim, cross the sky bridge and go to the 3rd floor of the parking garage. Follow the **Ground Transportation** signs - to the **Shuttle Express** booth in the center of the 3rd floor, between elevator banks 3 and 4 (next to the airport's ground transportation office).

Scheduled Service to the Bellevue Hyatt Regency Hotel departs every 50 minutes past the hour (\$19 for 1 rider; \$29 for 2 riders, \$35 for 3 riders; \$6 each additional rider)

Share Ride Service departs to the Hotel when the van is full (\$29 for 1 rider; \$35 for 2 riders; \$42 for 3 riders; \$5 each additional rider)

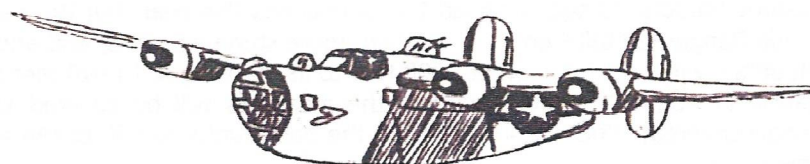




Reunion Schedule of Events

(All Hotel events are on the third floor)

| Date | Event | Time | Location |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Tuesday August 22 | Registration Opens | 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Balsam |
| Wednesday August 23 | Registration Open | 7:30 am – 4:00 pm | At Grand Staircase |
| | Memorabilia Room Open | 8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Grand EFG |
| | Mt. Rainier National Park Tour | 8:15 am – 5:00 pm | Meet in Hotel Lobby: bus departs at 8:30 am |
| | Seattle Sightseeing Tour | 8:45 am – 12:30 pm | Meet in Hotel Lobby: bus departs at 9:00 am |
| | Opening Day Social and Missing Aircrew Project Presentation by Mr. Pat Ranfranz on his 2005 Trip to Yap | 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm | Grand EFG Light refreshments & cash bar |
| Thursday August 24 | Registration Open | 8:00 am – 4:00 pm | At Grand Staircase |
| | Express Breakfast | 7:30 am – 8:30 am | Grand EFG |
| | Memorabilia Room Open | 7:30 am – 4:00 pm | Grand EFG |
| | Museum of Flight Tour | 8:45 am – 12:30 pm | Meet in Hotel Lobby: bus departs at 9:00 am |
| | Tillicum Village Tour & Dinner | 3:45 pm - 9:00 pm | Meet in Hotel Lobby: bus departs at 4:00 pm |
| | Seattle Mariners vs. NY Yankees | 5:45 pm - 11:00 pm | Meet in Hotel Lobby: bus departs at 6:00 pm |
| Friday August 25 | Registration Open | 8:00 am – 4:00 pm | At Grand Staircase |
| | Express Breakfast | 7:30 am – 8:30 am | Grand EFG |
| | Memorabilia Room Open | 7:30 am – 4:00 pm | Grand EFG |
| | McChord Air Force Base Tour | 8:45 am - 3:00 pm | Meet in Hotel Lobby: bus departs at 9:00 am |
| | Seattle Sightseeing Tour | 1:15 pm – 5:00 pm | Meet in Hotel Lobby: bus departs at 1:30 pm |
| | General Membership Meeting | 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm | Regency Ballroom |
| Saturday August 26 | Registration Open | 8:00 am – 4:00 pm | At Grand Staircase |
| | Express Breakfast | 7:30 am – 8:30 am | Grand EFG |
| | Memorabilia Room Open | 7:30 am – 4:00 pm | Grand EFG |
| | Boeing Future of Flight & Factory Tour | 7:45 am - 12:00 noon | Meet in Hotel Lobby: bus departs at 8:00 am |
| | Bent Prop Presentation by Dr. Pat Scannon on his 2006 Expedition to Palau | 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm | Grand EFG |
| | Pre-Banquette Photos & Reception | 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm | Birch |
| | Dinner and Dancing with the Kings of Swing | 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm | Grand ABCD |
| Sunday August 27 | Departure – We'll say Good bye | | See you again in two years! |



Tour Descriptions and Details

All tours are offered in clean, comfortable, and safe coaches operated by Gray Line of Seattle. Their coaches are all modern and air conditioned. They have well trained and experienced drivers and knowledgeable tour guides.

See the Reunion Schedule for all preliminary tour departure times. The final tour departure schedule will be included with the registration packet that you will receive upon arrival at the Reunion.

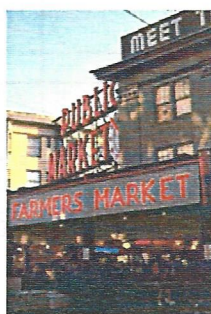
Note that all times are tentative and that individual tours are subject to cancellation if minimums are not met. Full refunds will be provided for any cancelled tours.

Seattle Sightseeing Tour

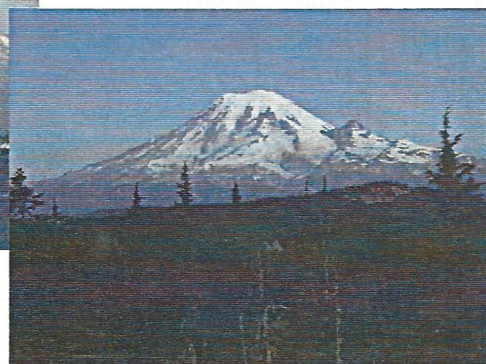
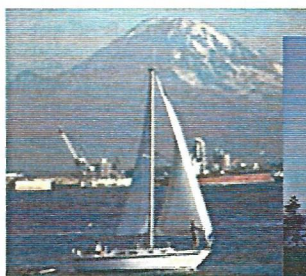
Wednesday @ 9:00 am and Friday @ 1:30 pm

Duration: 3 hours

This tour includes admission to the top of the Space Needle



Depart the Hyatt Regency Bellevue Lobby in the morning for a three and a half hour narrated tour of Seattle's top tourist attractions. This tour will include views of snow capped peaks to the north, south, east, and west and the beauty of Lake Washington and Puget Sound. You'll see the houseboat communities made famous in 'Sleepless in Seattle' as well as float planes taking off and landing on Lake Union. You'll see the Seattle waterfront with cruise ships, ferry boats, and freighters from around the world that make this one of the nations chief ports. You'll see Pike Place Market where Seattle shops for its seafood, produce, and crafts, as well as Safeco Field and Qwest Field, home of the Seattle Mariners and NFC Champion Seahawks. You'll experience Pioneer Square, where Seattle was born and where thousands of prospectors set off from for the Yukon Gold Rush in 1898. A highlight of the tour will be our visit to Seattle Center and a trip to the top of the Space Needle....bring your camera....the view will be awesome.



Mount Rainier National Park Tour

Wednesday @ 8:30 am

Duration: 8 hours

This tour includes admission to Mt. Rainier National Park, but lunch is on your own.

In Washington we refer to Mt. Rainier as just 'The Mountain.' We don't ask 'Is the weather clear today?' - we ask 'Is the Mountain out?' This tour will allow you to experience one of our Nation's premier National Parks. You will leave the Hyatt Regency Bellevue Lobby in the morning and make your way south along Lake Washington and past Boeing's Renton Plant where the 737 is manufactured. As you make your way south, Seattle's suburbs will give way to an area of small farms, rolling hills, and small towns. Just before entering the Park, you'll pass through Ashford, home to Jim Whittaker, first American to climb Mt. Everest. The Whittaker family runs Rainier Mountaineering Inc. in Ashford, the premier mountaineering school in the U.S.

Shortly after entering the Park, the pace will slow, the trees will become more majestic, and views more stunning. Depending on pace and weather, you may stop at Longmire for lunch, or proceed up to the Paradise area at 5000 feet. Unfortunately the historic Paradise Lodge is closed for renovations this year, but the Henry M. Jackson visitor center at Paradise will provide Ranger led talks on the Mountain, more stunning views, and another chance for lunch. Outside at Paradise, the Mountain will loom up another 9000 feet to its summit, at 14,410 feet above sea level. What else will you find at Paradise in August? Some summers the meadows will be covered with wildflowers, other summers it could still be snow covered! You are sure to have the opportunity to talk to climbers preparing for their ascent or returning from the summit.

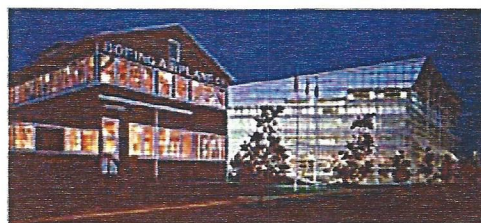


Museum of Flight Tour

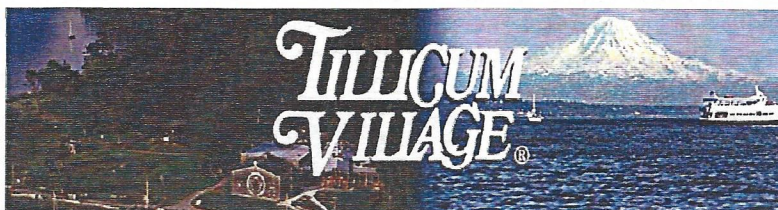
Thursday @ 9:00 am

Duration: 3-1/2 hours

This tour includes your admission to the Museum of Flight



Depart the Hyatt Regency Bellevue Lobby in the morning for a quick bus ride to Boeing Field and the Museum of Flight. Housed in the 'Red Barn' where the Boeing Company originated, the Museum of Flight includes an outstanding collection of aircraft and a variety of thematic displays organized to tell the story of humanity's quest to fly. Your visit will start with a docent-led tour of the Museum, and then you'll have time to wander the collections on your own. Highlights include the 'Personal Courage Wing,' which spotlights the contributions that the Air Force made to preserve our freedoms, the original Air Force One, and the Concorde. There will also be time to visit the Museum gift shop before our quick trip back to the hotel.

**Tillicum Village Tour & Dinner**

Thursday @ 4:00 pm

Duration: 5 hours

This tour includes cruise, admission to Blake Island, and traditional Native American salmon dinner with entertainment at Tillicum Village

Depart the Hyatt Regency Bellevue Lobby in the late afternoon for a fast bus trip to the Seattle waterfront, where you will board an Argosy Cruise Lines tour boat. You'll cross Elliot Bay to Blake Island with views of Mt. Rainier and the Olympic Mountains, the Seattle skyline and the Space Needle, Washington State Ferryboats carrying commuters across the bay, and hundreds of pleasure craft as Seattle boaters relax on the water after a hard day at work. Once on Blake Island you enter another world, with no cars, tall pines, peace and quite. Blake Island is a Washington State Park and home to Tillicum Village, just a few steps from the dock. Tillicum Village preserves the culture of the Native Americans who greeted the first settlers who arrived in Seattle in the Nineteenth Century. Your tour will include a traditional alder cooked salmon dinner and authentic entertainment. Before you reboard your Argosy tour boat, there will be time for a brief stop in the Tillicum Village gift shop.

Seattle Mariners vs. New York Yankees at Safeco Field

Thursday @ 6:00 pm

Duration: 5 hours+

This event includes transportation to and from Safeco Field and admission to the game
Food and refreshments are on your own

Depart the Hyatt Regency Bellevue Lobby in the late afternoon for a fast bus trip to Safeco Field and the great American pastime. Your bus will drop you off and pick you up right across from the stadium. The 307th Bomb Group has a section of seats reserved in comfortable Safeco Field where you can enjoy the game as a group with other reunion attendees and cheer for the home town team (or for that other team if you must). Seattle is sports crazy, so this is sure to be a well attended game. And don't worry about rain....even if it should sprinkle (very unlikely) they'll just move the roof over the field.



McChord Air Force Base Tour

Friday @ 9:00 am

Duration: 5 hours

This tour includes entry to McChord Air Force Base, the McChord Air Force Base Museum, and lunch on the Base

**Note Special Restrictions:**

- ☐ No children under 10 years of age are permitted by the Air Force on the base for the tour
- ☐ All people going on this tour must include either your drivers license number, passport number, or social security number with the registration form (this is a USAF requirement for us to enter the base)

Depart the Hyatt Regency Bellevue Lobby in morning for a bus trip to McChord Air Force Base. Along the way you'll pass Tacoma with views of its bustling port. Just past Tacoma we'll enter McChord, clear through base security, and meet our Public Affairs liaison. McChord Air Force Base is home to the U.S. Air Force's 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings, flying the giant C-17 Globemaster Transport. McChord plays a key role in the Air Force's mission to support the War Against Terror across the globe. Your tour of the base will include a briefing about the base and its Air Wings, followed by a tour aboard a huge C-17. Later you'll have lunch on the base followed by a visit to the McChord Air Force Base Museum.

**Boeing Future of Flight Museum and Boeing Factory Tour**

Saturday @ 8:00 am

Duration: 3-1/2 hours

This tour includes your admission to the Flight Museum and to the Boeing Factory Tour

Depart the Hyatt Regency Bellevue Lobby in the morning for a bus ride north to Everett. You'll start with a visit to the brand new (open in December 2005) Future of Flight Museum. Here you will learn how the components of a modern jetliner are designed and built. You'll learn how design decisions affect range, speed, passenger and cargo capacity, fuel economy, and maintenance costs. You'll look inside a jet engine, the cross section of a fuselage, and the inside of a wing to learn their design secrets. You can even design your own plane at dozens of computer terminals scattered around the museum and keep a print of your work after your design is completed.

Then you'll shuttle across the parking lot to the Boeing Everett Factory located on Paine Field. Your factory tour will take you in to the largest building in the world, where you will see where Boeing builds the 747, 767, and 777. This will also be the future assembly location of Boeing's new 787 – The Dreamliner.

Note Special Boeing Factory Tour Restrictions:

- No children under 4'-0" are allowed on the Boeing Factory Tour
- The Boeing Factory Tour involves walking one third of a mile, 21 stairs, and an elevator ride. However, wheelchairs can be accommodated on advance notice.
- The Boeing Company prohibits bringing any personal items on the Factory Tour, including purses, cameras, cell phones, backpacks, etc.



Reunion Photo Session, Dinner, and Dance

Saturday 5:30 – 10:00 pm

The final evening of the 2006 Reunion will begin with a no-host reception and photo session. As they do every two years, Rainbow Photos will take pictures of Reunion Attendees. This is the opportunity to have your photo taken on your own, with your family, or with your crew. There is no charge for the sitting and no obligation to buy photos. We hope everyone will have their picture taken, so we can include them all in the 2006 Reunion Book as a permanent memory of the Seattle Reunion.

Dinner will follow in the Hyatt Regency Grand Ballroom. Your dinner choices will include:

- ☐ Rosemary Roast Chicken with Baba Ganoush Whipped Potatoes with Tender Asparagus Spears and Meyer Lemon Buerre Blanc
- ☐ Honey Lavender Salmon with Cauliflower-Parmesan Risotto, Roasted Winter Root Vegetable Hash and Essence of Sun-Dried Tomato
- ☐ Gorgonzola Ravioli with Roasted Red Bell Pepper Sauce and Seasonal Haystack Vegetables

All dinners include Salad for starters, Dinner wine service, and Grand Opera Chocolate Cake desert

After dinner enjoy music and dancing to the Miller/Dorsey Sounds of the *Kings of Swing*. Formed in 1944 at Seattle's Cleveland High School, the band has gone through a renaissance and now boasts 19 members. The *Kings of Swing* have performed as far away as St. Petersburg, Russia and recently released their first CD, 'Full Circle.'



 **The Kings of Swing**



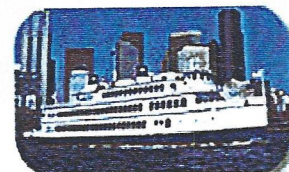
Other Things To Do On Your Own:

Arriving early for the reunion? Staying a day or two afterwards?

The organized tours we've arranged for the reunion are only a sampling of things to do or see while you are in Seattle. Here are some suggestions that you might consider 'on your own':

In Bellevue, near the Hotel:

- Bellevue Square for great shopping.
- Take in a movie at two nearby Cineplex's
- Bellevue Art Museum
- Bellevue Doll Art Museum



In or from Seattle:

- Take a boat tour from Seattle, thru the Chittenden Locks to Lake Union
- Ride the Washington State Ferries from Seattle to Bremerton
- Visit the Experience Music Project (Rock & Roll Museum)
- Visit the Science Fiction Museum
- See fish really fly at Pike Place Market

In Pioneer Square:

- Browse the galleries, antiques & shops
- Seattle Gold Rush Museum
- Take the Seattle Underground Tour

Outside Seattle or longer trips:

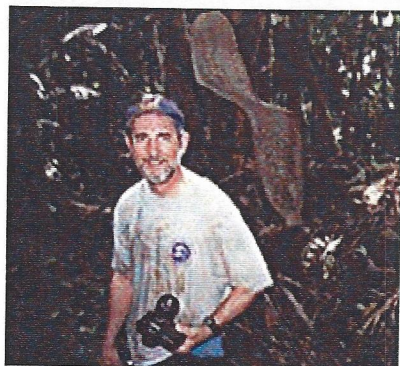
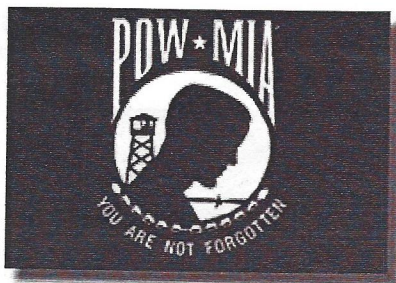
- Scenic Washington Dinner Train
- Dale Chihuly Glass Art Museum
- Great golfing
- Zoos, aquariums, whale watching
- Winery tours
- Take a Kenmore Air Float Plane day tour to Victoria or to the San Juan Islands
- Mt. St. Helens National Park
- Take a Holland America or Princess Cruise Lines tour to Alaska
- Olympic National Park
- North Cascades National Park

The Hyatt will be able to help you with most of these optional tours.
(Of course, Alaska Cruises need to be booked well in advance)

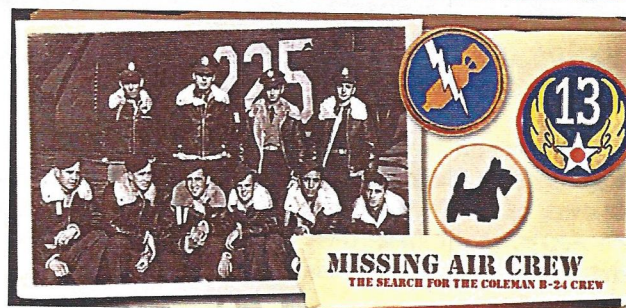
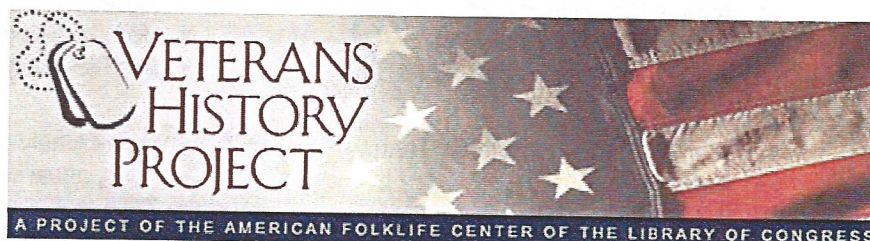


The **MissingAirCrew.com** Web site is dedicated to the memories of the ten [crew members](#) of the Coleman B-24 Crew (13th Air Force, 372nd Bombardment Squadron, 307th Bombardment Group) who were [shot down](#) by a Japanese fighter over [Yap Island](#) and declared missing on 25 June 1944. My uncle, [T/Sgt John R. McCullough](#), was the Assistant Radio Operator on the missing B-24. Although it's been sixty years since the plane went missing, it's never too late to start the search for the Coleman Crew. The crew should not lie anonymously in the waters near Yap Island. The crew member families need to know where their loved ones lie. 78,000 servicemen from WWII are still missing in action. Their bodies never have been found and their families never have known the peace of closure. This site is [my vehicle](#) to find out more about the lives and times of the Coleman Crew members and to find the missing plane!

- Patrick Ranfranz



The United States Congress created the **Veterans History Project** in 2000. The authorizing legislation ([Public Law 106-380](#)), sponsored by Representatives Ron Kind, Amo Houghton, and Steny Hoyer in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senators Max Cleland and Chuck Hagel in the U.S. Senate, received unanimous support and was signed into law by President William Jefferson Clinton on October 27, 2000.



The
BentProp[™]
Project



The Bent Prop Project: During World War II, many American airmen lost their lives in the western Pacific, some in the western Caroline Islands, in what is presently known as The Republic of Palau. The ultimate fate of hundreds of these men remains a mystery today. For more than a half century, families and wingmen of airmen who were declared Missing In Action (MIA) have lived with a painful lack of closure: they do not know exactly how and where their loved ones died. If they could have such knowledge it would not eliminate the pain of loss, but it can sometimes ease the emptiness and silence the nightmares.

The Bent Prop Project works with the [Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command](#) in Hawaii. These are the folks who assemble and deploy teams to places like Europe, Korea, and Vietnam - and recently, to Palau - to look for, recover, and identify remains of American MIAs. When we discover a site that may still contain remains, JPAC, which has the world's largest forensic laboratory, has the resources (e.g., DNA analysis) to extend the scientific analysis of the site and seek positive identification. We also notify relevant armed services' historical agencies, including the US Navy Historical Research Center, the US Marine Historical Research Center and the US Air Force Historical Research Agency. We also inform air reunion groups that flew over Palau, including the VMF (Marine Fighter Squadron)- 114, VMF-121, VMF-122, 494th BG(H) (Bombardment Group (Heavy)) of the 7th Army Air Force and the 307th BG(H) of the 13th Army Air Force. Finally - and perhaps most importantly - we share information with families of missing airmen, as the information is obtained and confirmed.

-Dr. Patrick J Scannon, MD, PhD

