



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

Shop Our Post Exchange

Welcome back to our Friends and Family Members!

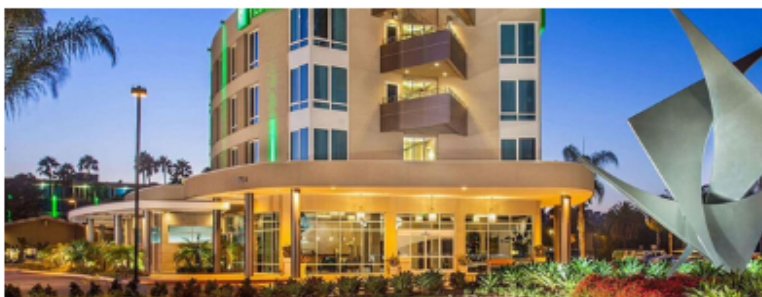


How we Started

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

The 307th is on the move to
San Diego

Reunion 2018

October 12th-15th, 2018
San Diego, CA

**Welcome to Holiday Inn
Bayside, San Diego CA**

Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside

Our modern hotel, located near the marinas and walkways of the scenic San Diego Bay, boasts a unique look and a fresh, contemporary design. It is a relaxing and unique getaway for those traveling on business or pleasure offering bay views and a tropically landscaped recreation area with an outdoor pool, miniature golf, and table tennis. An excellent location puts us right in the middle of the best San Diego attractions including great restaurants and shopping destinations. Guests can dine at our onsite restaurant, Point Loma Café, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily.

Welcome to our bayfront hotel with a great San Diego location and unique amenities

Rooms and suites offer stylish furnishings, free Wi-Fi, and flat screen HDTVs with premium cable channels. Our Bayside building features teak ceilings, Spanish fretwork, Mexican antiques, and plush seating for the ultimate San Diego retreat. Our staff is ready to help you with everything from complimentary shuttle rides to the airport and professional event planning services, so you can host a memorable event in one of our beautiful ballrooms. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Standby Folks.... The website will be up shortly for the registration process. Please hang in there with me.



Letter from the President

Hello everyone,

Hopefully spring has finally come to everyone. I know I am thankful it's warming up.

As we make our way to longer days and Memorial Day, let us remember those who has taken their final flight. On Memorial Day take the time to honor those that have served in any branch of the service. Volunteer to set flags at your local cemetery, visit veterans at a hospital, send a card to someone serving overseas, or take a veteran out to lunch.

There has been bumps along the way with finalizing our 2018 Reunion. Our dates had to change due to scheduling

problems with hotels. There is some many other events going on during the dates we wanted so the decision was made to switch our dates.

The new dates are from Friday, October 12th till Tuesday, October 16th.

The Banquet will be Sunday, October 14th with the time to be determined.

I apologize for any inconvenience this causes anyone while trying to make their plans. We will be posting the trip details and sign up page soon.

We are going to be starting some new incentives for Membership. Anyone who signs up will receive a free gift. For those that has already signed up this year, we will be sending yours to you via the mail within the next couple of months. Also, if you sign up before the reunion you will save on the cost of renewal. Cost will go up at the reunion.

Hoping all have a wonderful spring & summer! See you in San Diego!

Debbie Drake

Debbie Drake - President

The Long Rangers

307th Bombardment Group (HV)

Email Me at - President@307bg.net



John Vanderpoel's WWII memories ...

"John Vanderpoel said "I thought I was going to die many times — I could see the enemy pilot's face when they would fly right through our formation of airplanes."

As you know John was commander of the 424th Bomb Squadron when Greg Babinski's father was with the Long Rangers. Thanks Greg for the article.

The following article comes from interviews with residents at the Concord Deaconess and has been put into a book titled "Memories of World War II."

I was in the reserves in the ROTC at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. When I went to flying school, I was a good student and was larger than average. The larger guys were sent to two engine school. After that I was put into an instructor role in pilot school, where we taught guys who had their wings but needed more. Early in 1941, I was called to active duty. I trained people in flying over water, night flying, bombing and navigation, and I was only 23 years old. They gave a lot of responsibility to us as very young men. Albany, Ga., Smyrna, Texas and El Paso were some of my stations until May 1944 when I was shipped to Guadalcanal. Even though I was a squadron commander of 750 men, the brass above me kept putting me into instruction when I wanted to go to war. Because I had taught, I knew how to deal with emergencies. We always had rotten gas and engines to train people on (because they needed the good materials for the fighting forces) and I had dealt with 60 or 70 engines failing. Finally I started flying bombing runs out of the Admiralty Islands as we worked our way to the Philippines.

We lived under palm trees and the monkeys would throw coconuts at us. Conditions were pretty primitive in our tents. We had a beautiful landing strip surrounded by coral reefs, but it was narrow with strong winds. In the evening at 6:15 p.m. a movie would start, and last maybe until 8:15 p.m. We always took our helmets to the movies because at the end, the Japanese would flyover with their engines off, trying to beat radar and bomb us. We lost three planes one night, when a Japanese bomb hit an airplane already loaded with bombs for the morning run. It exploded and took out two other planes, including my favorite B-24.

I had to write 93 letters to mothers of killed pilots, though we did not have many losses in my immediate group. I thought I was going to die many times — I could see the enemy pilot's face when they would fly right through our formation of airplanes. We had no fighter plane escorts. Except one time, Charles Lindberg escorted us in flight. He was selling airplanes, but was the best gas conserver of all time. He taught people how to fine tune and run their engines. He shot down a Japanese plane on that trip.

When you flew with no fighter escort and the enemy flew right into your formation, you'd come home with engines out, bullet holes through the plane, people hurt, guys screaming from fright.

My plane was the first over Palau, a big island east of the Philippines. We were a reconnaissance flight sent to take pictures of targets before the Navy started the invasion. They told me to go in at 22,000 feet. But when I got there, I could not see anything because of the clouds. We had to come down to 9,000 feet before we came out of the clouds. Japanese Zeros came right up after us while I was taking the reconnaissance photos. We kept spiraling up to hide in the clouds. We left lots of pilots under the water there in that campaign. Tokyo Rose came on the radio later and said that the lone B-24 that came over in the afternoon had crashed. But it wasn't true — we all laughed. We used to listen to her show just for the music. One night at the movies, all of a sudden the microphone came on and announced my wife had given birth to our second son. We had been married in September 1941 and we had our first child, Eric, the following August. I figured I had enough experience that I would live through the war, so we wanted another child — the child whose birth was announced over the microphone on our island base. I came home in July 1945 on a boat with no escort and few guns when the USS Indianapolis was sunk on the way back from delivering the atomic bombs to the Enola Gay. If it had been sunk on the way over, the bombs would have been lost. Anyway, we spent 30 days zigzagging on the water to dodge Japanese submarines. The war did not really change me — it made me older. I had so many blessings. A few days ago, I got news that one of my flying school buddies had died and it brought tears to my eyes. We had the best squadron — when people needed help, they always stole from my group.

Dick Krug is the director of Veteran Services for the town of Concord, and is located at 105 Everett St. He can be reached at 978-318-3038 or Dkrug@concordma.gov.

Little Know Facts From WWII.....



Over 100,000 Allied bomber crewmen were killed over Europe.

More U.S. Servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps.

HISTORIAN's CORNER



From Our Historian

Jim McCabe

Milton C. Potee, 92 years old, of Rogers, Arkansas, took his final flight surrounded by his family on April 12, 2018 in his home.

<http://www.bentoncountyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Milton-C-Potee?obId=3060034#/obituaryInfo>

Milt served as a T/Sgt., Tailgunner, on the Lt. Elvin D. Reamy Crew, 370th Bombardment Squadron, from 1944-45. We offer our condolences to his wife Vivian and their families. Milt was a regular 307th BG Association Reunion attendee. He was ever humble. It was only as Historian that I learned Milt had flown combat missions to Yap, Koror, Balikpapan and the Philippines. The 307th BG's losses during this period were staggering. The losses inflicted on the Japanese would prove

vital to victory in the SW Pacific. Following the devastating combat mission to Balikpapan on 441003, only one 307th BG crew returned to their base at Noemfoor. The remaining B-24 Bombers that survived had scattered all over the SW Pacific with their casualties and wounded aboard. Only five were put back in service with most of the aircraft having 400-600 holes in them. The 370th BS lost 3 crews over the target, Lt.'s Wright's, Kendall's and Gage's, 31 men in all. Collectively the 307th BG's 4 squadrons lost over 60 men. Milt would have known many of these men, many were friends.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYi6QCAZs6g>

The 307th BG would not fly another combat mission until 441010 as they awaited replacement crews and new aircraft. Milt and the Reamy Crew would fly this combat mission back to Balikpapan. Combined with the 440930 and 441003 combat missions to Balikpapan, the crews would reap some satisfaction in delivering what was considered to be the fatal blow to the Japanese oil installations at Balikpapan. The 307th BG would earn their second PUC (Presidential Unit Citation), the equivalent of a Distinguished Flying Cross for every crew member for the 1st of these missions.

If you are a descendant of Milt Potee or any other 307th BG crew member who served during this period, you are blessed to have been born. My father was among the replacement crews for the men lost and wounded. I grew up learning what these men and their ground crew personnel had endured and accomplished. I know in my heart that if not for their determination and professionalism, I and my extended family (now 29 in this bloodline and counting), would likely never have been. Most of our 307th BG Association members share my circumstances which computes to thousands of us who owe our very lives to these men.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RU1oB8sGyYM>

WE REMEMBER

To those who've had to fly and fight,
who have served their country in the sky,
with a grateful heart, and watchful eye,
we remember.

And may the faithful, proud machines,
who bore the sword of freedom on their wings,
be given the honor such a burden brings,
and we remember.

Keep them flying, keep them flying,
so that all who see them will know,
that their freedom was won by the blood that flowed,
and remember.

And all who've coursed through hostile skies,
know that freedom requires a sacrifice,
to those who paid the highest price,
we remember.

With a place of honor so deserved,
for what flesh and blood and steel have earned,
that may the greatest glory be reserved,
for the colors they so bravely served.

Keep them flying, keep them flying,
so that all who see them will know,
that our freedom was won by the blood that flowed,
and we remember. -Dwayne O'Brien

Thanks Milt. You will be missed.

Respectfully,

Jim McCabe, Historian

307th BG Assoc.

www.307bg.net

james-mccabe@comcast.net



An Imperial Japanese Army intelligence officer, who fought in World War II,

Hiroo Onoda never surrendered in 1945. Until 1974, for almost 30 years, he held his position in the Philippines. His former commander traveled from Japan to personally issue orders relieving him from duty in 1974.

HEY EVERYONE!!! LOOK!!!! OUR Dale Goes back to School

Veteran & 307th member Dale Stickrath Sr. went back to school.



Mr. McFarland had met Dale at a Best Buy in Jacksonville when they struck up a conversation. If anyone knows Dale, you know he loves to talk. Mr. McFarland said he would love to have him speak to his classes, so they could meet a true WWII hero. Mr. Calvin McFarland teaches Social Studies & a class on the Holocaust & WWII at Mandarin High School in Jacksonville, FL.

It was arranged for Dale to speak on March 14 to 3 classes & 15th to 2 classes about his life and service. In between classes on the 15th Dale & his daughter, Debbie Drake, were blessed to have a 2-hour break during which they had an amazing conversation with Mr. Calvin.

Dale told of his service from when he entered until he was discharged. He spoke of life overseas and the 3 main missions that he was involved in.

One was when they were flying formation to hunt down a crippled ship and accidentally came across a Japanese Task Force with the battleship Yamato.

The second was when the bombs hung up and the tails were spinning off. He and the bombardier had to throw them out by hand.

And third was the 17th hour flight to get to Borneo so they could bomb the refinery.

He also passed around some artifacts he has including a 50 cal. Bullet and a piece from a Japanese airplane.

After that he spoke of life during the 40s and showed them menus from restaurants & a war ration book.

After that he took questions from the students. They had some interest in what it was like during the depression and after. Also, about women's role during the war and what his thoughts were of the events of today.

When it was close to the bell, he would pose for pictures with the students and shake their hand.

It was an amazing and gratifying time for all involved.





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.



January 12, 2018

Milton C. Potee 92 of Rogers passed away surrounded by his family April 12, 2018 in his home. He was born June 10, 1925 in Ames Iowa. He is perhaps best known for his giving spirit and comedic prowess. Milton gave of his time and self to so many that is it difficult to include them all. He was a member of the First Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Rogers. He loved his time in GRUB and Kiwanis in Rogers. He was always ready to help with building something or organizing people, such as with Habitat for Humanity, Building Together and churches around the country. He also served in the United States Army Air Corps during WWII.

His first wife Geneice Potee precedes him in death.

He is survived by his wife Vivian Potee; his children Deborah Scully (Hugo), Christine Jackson (Jim), Brent Potee (Reba) and Nanette Potee, as well as his 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.



October 28, 2017

Murray Cotter

Murray A. Cotter passed away October 28, 2017. Age 95. Loving husband of the late Ruth. Dear father of Michael (Rosemary), Leslie Baker (James), Lindsay, Peter (Anelyse) and Polly Davidson (Stephen). Cherished grandfather of Murray A. II (Julie) and John M. Cotter, Victoria Lehman (Michael), Abigail Cotter, Katherine Asadi (Ali), Joseph Baker (Allison), Robert and Elizabeth Davidson. Loving Great grandfather of Hadley and Emma Ruth Lehman.



A note for our member Christine Hoover:

"Murray was very active at the Yankee Air Museum near Detroit, kept historical information going within Michigan WWII groups, and had a group of "Fly Boys" who met monthly. I even caught him on a local PBS show about WWII & the role the region & the real Rosie the Riveter who posed for the poster played in the war. Great show."

Treasurers Corner

Financials as of May 5, 2018



Hello everyone!

Well the first quarter of the year is gone and we are half way through the second. My how time is flying by. I hope all is well with you and your families and are finally able to start getting warm as we roll into Spring and Summer..

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 \$3,412.76 as of May 5, 2018 in the account. Thanks to the many folks that have paid their dues and some new members that have joined.

Individual Membership - \$25.00

Couples Membership - \$60.00

Family Membership - \$95.00

Remember that if you have not paid your dues you can click the button below that will take you directly to the website to pay your dues with or you can website at

www.307.bg.net

and pay dues through the PX, or send a check to directly to :

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

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

Renew/Join with your membership

Shop Amazon Smile. When you shop using Amazon Smile, ever purchase made supplies a donation to the 307th Bombardment Group. www.smile.amazon.com Just select the 307th as your donation site.

Amazon Smile

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

Membership sign- up/renewal form

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Current Address _____ Current City _____

Current State _____ Current Zip Code _____ Current Phone Number _____

Alternate Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Membership Type

Renewal Year _____

Check the appropriate box:

☐ **\$95.00 - Family Membership** - Family Membership now includes up to 5 immediate family members. 12 and under are FREE. (That's a \$80 savings.) Membership has benefits and privileges, including a vote during annual membership meetings, access to historic archives, memorabilia and recognition at annual reunions. Annual Membership renewal fees are due on January 1st each year. Enroll the whole family for one low price!

☐ **\$60.00 - Couples Membership** - Couples Membership now includes two members at a savings of \$10. Membership has benefits and privileges, including a vote during annual membership meetings, access to historic archives, memorabilia and recognition at annual reunions. Annual Membership renewal fees are due on January 1st of each year.

☐ **\$35.00 - Single Membership** - 307th Bombardment Group Association Membership is renewable annually. Membership has benefits and privileges, including a vote during annual membership meetings, access to historic archives, memorabilia and recognition at annual reunions. Annual renewal fees are due on January 1st each year. We welcome you!

Please mail this back to the following address:

**307th Bombardment Group
C/O Greta Hughes Walsh - Treasurer
2032 Mason Lane
Spring Hill, Tennessee 37174**

You can also always sign up online at www.307bg.net. Go to the PX Store and select the Membership renewal