



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

## May, 2016 Newsletter

Our Association grew out of the initial meeting of eight former World War II members who got together in the spirit of fellowship and camaraderie in Reno, Nevada, on September 11-12, 1972. The 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.

Since then, our organization has grown and we have expanded to include the children of the 307th and their families and friends. Our mission is to insure that future generations never forget the sacrifices that these men made for them and for our country. Each year we hold a reunion in a different part of the country to celebrate and reminisce, catching up with old friends and making new ones.

**WE ARE THE FAMILY! WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF HEROES**





## **A Call to all members, guests, friends and family members of the 307th BG!**

August is right around the corner!  
And with it comes our  
2016 Family Reunion in  
Nashville.

Get your registration in early and  
book your rooms ASAP.  
You won't want to be left out of  
this memorable event.



**Click below to open the 2016  
Family Reunion**

**[Official Registration Form](#)**

**They wouldn't have had it any other way!**

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**Can you imagine that the first 10 reunion registrations posted contained WWII Veterans of the 307th.**

**This reunion is a tribute to the last remaining members of the 307th Bombardment Group and their families. We moved the dates to accommodate family members with children, prior to the start of the school season.**

**Come Join Us—Bring the Kids—Bring the Whole family**

**Holiday Inn - Nashville Airport  
Nashville, TN**

**Call The Group Desk Now - [866-871-1171](tel:866-871-1171)**

**ABSOLUTE: Registration Deadline: July 1st, 2016**

**Reunion Dates: August 10 thru 14, 2016  
(Wednesday thru Saturday - Depart Sunday)**

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

**We will need to confirm our final total group numbers by July 1st, 2016.**

**Be sure to mention the 307th Bombardment Group Block to get our special \$115 Group Rate (Single or Double)**

**Check out the Agenda on the next page. > > >**

## AGENDA

### 307<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP REUNION

**AUGUST 10-14, 2016**

**NASHVILLE, TN**

**Wednesday- 8/10/16**

**Arrival**

**4:00pm-8:00pm**

Registration

**Thursday- 8/11/16**

**6:00am-10:00am**

Breakfast available, **(On your Own)**

**Jackson's Veranda**

**08:30am-2:00pm**

**Music City Tour** with Lunch included

**WHEELS UP AT - 9:00 am**

Loveless Café.

**Cost \$85.00 per person**

An enlightening & entertaining narrative will include the downtown area with some of its colorful history & beautiful architecture. Also, drive by world famous Tootsie's Orchid Lounge on Honky Tonk Row, the original Ernest Tubb Record Shop, the State Capitol and more. An enlightening & entertaining narrative will include the downtown area with some of its colorful history & beautiful architecture.

***Included in the cost of your ticket:***

Ryman Auditorium Museum Admission (self-guided tour)

- Mini-Bus Transportation
- Step-On Tour Guide

**11:00am-2:00pm**

**For those who choose to stay back for the above tour:**

Lunch available    Latitude 36 (in the Hotel) **(On your own)**

**2:00pm-Until**

**Open Time On your own**

**5:00pm-9:00pm**

Dinner available    **Latitude 36**

**(On your own)**

## AGENDA

### 307<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP REUNION

**AUGUST 10-14, 2016**

**NASHVILLE, TN**

**Friday, August 12, 2016**

**6:00am-10:00am**

Breakfast available, **(On your Own)**

**Jackson's Veranda**

**09:00am-10:00am**

Officers Meeting – **Hospitality Room**

**10:00am-4:00pm**

**Open Time On your own**

**4:15pm-9:45pm**

**Grand Ole Opry Dinner Tour**

**WHEELS UP AT 4:45PM**

**Cost: \$110 per person**

We'll start our evening with dinner at Santa Fe Cattle Co where you will have an entrée selection of BBQ Ribs, Chicken, Catfish or Sirloin served with salad, baked potato, non-alcoholic beverage and Santa Fe's famous yeast rolls.

Then we're off to the world famous Grand Ole Opry. Since 1925, the longest running radio show in radio history celebrates its 91<sup>st</sup> Anniversary in 2016. Dedicated to honoring country music rich history, the Grand Ole Opry showcases a mix of country legends & the contemporary chart-toppers who have followed in their footsteps. This is the show that made Nashville famous and not to be missed.

***Included in the cost of your ticket:***

- Mini-Bus Transportation
- Step-On Tour Guide
- Dinner at Santa Fe Cattle Co
- Reserved seat ticket to the Grand Ole Opry *(Tier 2 seating)*

## AGENDA

### 307<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP REUNION

**AUGUST 10-14, 2016**

**NASHVILLE, TN**

#### **Saturday, August 13, 2016**

**6:00am-10:00am**

Breakfast available, (On your Own)

**Jackson's Veranda**

**09:30am-12:00pm**

Business Meeting – **Hospitality Room**

**12:00pm-5:00pm**

**Open Time On your own**

**5:00pm-6:00pm**

Cocktail Bar available- **Jackson's Veranda**

**6:00pm-9:00pm**

Dinner & Presentations – **Ballroom**

#### **Sunday, August 14, 2016**

**6:00am-10:00am**

Breakfast available, (On your Own)

**Jackson's Veranda**

**Goodbyes Until Next Year & Heading Home**



# NOTICE of Members' Meeting

**307th BG Association Business Meeting**

**Nashville**

**August 13, 2016**

A members' meeting will be held on Saturday morning, August 13, 2016. All current members in attendance should be present to have their vote count.

**2016 is an election year!** We will be electing new officers based on nominations submitted by the membership.

Are you willing to serve your Association as an officer, or is there another member you would like to nominate? Please submit your nominations via email to Ms. Laurie Kendall, 307th BG Secretary at [lak1204@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lak1204@sbcglobal.net) We will publish all nominations in the last newsletter before the reunion.

You may also submit nominations for our 2016-2018 officers at the reunion. While we hope to publicize nominations in advance, you also may nominate someone to serve in an officer/board position at the reunion, at any time before the vote is called at the business meeting.

Nominations will be collected in the Memorabilia Room during the course of the reunion. You may also submit your nominations via email to [member-services@307bg.net](mailto:member-services@307bg.net).

## **Preliminary Meeting Agenda**

1. Approval of minutes of 2015 meeting
2. Officers' report on Association activities
3. Nominations and election of officers for 2016 - 2018
4. Review of the 307th Bomb Wing's Shreveport celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Group's founding
5. Discussion and selection of 2017 reunion site
6. Other business

Please don't miss this meeting. Your vote counts!

## **Nashville Reunion August 10-14: y'all come!**



Dear members, family and friends of the 307<sup>th</sup> BG Association, As you have seen in our online registration materials, hosts Greta and Jim Walsh and their reunion team have organized a spectacular 2016 reunion in Nashville. We have every expectation of meeting the high standards of our 2015 gathering in New Orleans. So, I will begin with –

***A plea for your assistance:*** If you haven't signed up for the reunion, please complete both reservations ASAP! Remember there are two registrations required: the reunion registration, and your room reservation at the Holiday Inn Nashville Airport. With less than three months to the reunion, we need your registration information to finalize event planning and fill our room block.

***The Long Ranger heritage continues:*** We are very pleased that we will be joined in Nashville by serving USAF members of the 307<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. Many New Orleans attendees commented that among their best reunion experiences was getting to know some of the Air Force men and women who continue the heritage and tradition of the "Long Rangers," supporting B-52H flight operations and training from Barksdale Air Force Base, and B-1 Lancer operations of the 498<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group from Dyess Air Force Base.

We also hope to be joined by some of our friends from another great World War II veterans' group, the 13<sup>th</sup> Air Force Association. The 13<sup>th</sup> Air Force was the 307<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group's parent unit in the Pacific Theater, and among the New Orleans highlights were the joint outing to the World War II museum, and the opportunity for the 307<sup>th</sup> vets to socialize with their fellow airmen of the 13<sup>th</sup>. We hope to make some equally moving memories this year.

So, don't wait! Plan your summer family outing NOW to celebrate and honor our veterans. See you in Nashville!

*John*

John Poggi

President, 307<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (HV) Association





# On the Road

With Dottie Kendall

**We Can Do It Again!**

**SAVE THE WILLOW RUN BOMBER PLANT**

Henry Ford's historic WWII plant, home of Rosie the Riveter and the B-24 Liberator bomber, is an important piece of our history. Let's preserve a portion of it as the NEW home of the Yankee Air Museum!



TO DONATE, AND TO LEARN MORE, VISIT...

[www.SAVETHEBOMBERPLANT.ORG](http://www.SAVETHEBOMBERPLANT.ORG)


**HISTORY ★ FUTURE ★ COMMUNITY**

**FUTURE NEW HOME of the Yankee Air Museum**



**Yankee Air Museum**  
Presbyterian Avenue  
47884 D Street, Belleville, MI 48111  
Phone (734) 483-4030  
[YankeeAirMuseum.org](http://YankeeAirMuseum.org)  
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/YankeeAirMuseum)

Coming soon from Arcadia Publishing...  
**Images of Aviation Willow Run**  
by Randy Hottel & Michael W.R. Davis






# On the Road

## With Dottie Kendall

### **SAVE THE WILLOW RUN BOMBER PLANT**

Future New Home of the  
**YANKEE AIR MUSEUM**  
(where the B-24's were built)

Last week I attended the "SAVE THE WILLOW RUN BOMBER PLANT" visual presentation at the present location of the Yankee Air Museum near Belleville, Michigan – about an hour from my house.

It was a moment never seen before or since in American History. Almost overnight (19 months to be exact) the world's largest building materialized from virtually nothing, and thereafter, the tens of thousands of workers inside were building the giant B-24. In less than 36 months, they would be producing a complete bomber every hour, 24 hours a day. It was called Willow Run, and it saved the world. It ceased building the B-24's in mid-1945. Ford Motor Company accomplished this after telling the government "Yes, they could produce at that level" and proved it.

For the next several years the building and the property on which it stood was sold to various companies including Kaiser-Frazer which built cars, farm tractors and other farm equipment; General Motors which adapted the building to several of their purposes and other businesses. Most of the building was torn down years ago but a group of individuals got together and begged to save a portion of the building for historical purposes. Eventually they did prevail and now the Yankee Air Museum owns that portion.. It took a number of years to do this, including raising of the necessary funds.

Currently the YAM is relatively small (covers approximately 3 acres of the 17 acres they own) and pretty basic. They have a number of WWII planes on exhibit, a section of "Rosie the Riveter", classrooms, a general purpose room (where the presentation was held), etc. Visitors can take a ride on the restored, award-winning B-17 ("Yankee Lady") and/or the B-25, also restored and award-winning "Yankee Warrior".

We were shown blueprints, images of the building and conditions that needed cleaning, repair or replacement, including the ORIGINAL HUGE doors that permitted the B-24's to exit the building when completed. Those doors are still in existence today.

Obviously, the goal of this group is to continue raising funds so plans for moving the existing museum to its new home can be realized.

Submitted by Dottie Kendall





Christine Hoover  
307th BG Vice-President

# After lonely death, WWII vet got a hero's goodbye!



PHOTOGRAPHER: MARVIN JOSEPH/THE WASHINGTON POST

Bill Sheppard places cremated remains in a niche following the memorial service for World War II veteran Andrew Moore at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia

Andrew Moore lived alone and died alone. He was raised in an orphanage, never married and outlived his friends. For his last 40 years, the World War II veteran slept on a couch in a rent controlled efficiency apartment in the nation's capital.

The 89-year-old pensioner died in December with no will, no instructions and no next of kin. He lay in a cold room at the District of Columbia medical examiner's office, where the unclaimed dead are usually destined for a nameless pauper's grave.

> > >



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Instead, on Friday April 9th, 2016, Moore was given a hero's sendoff at Arlington National Cemetery. A uniformed honor guard escorted Moore's flag-covered remains. In place of a silent goodbye, a bugler played taps and three volleys of rifle fire marked his passing.

How was a lonely man diverted from the oblivion of a potter's field for the glory of his country's most hallowed resting place? It was the work of a family Moore may not have known he had: the residents of State House, a post-WWII apartment building at the edge of Washington's Embassy Row.

His neighbors in that vertical village didn't know much about the affable old-timer who smoked on the front steps. But they knew this: He deserved a dignified goodbye.

Most residents of the eight-story, 308-unit State House probably never heard Andy Moore's name. He was just one of the building's fixtures, the friendly Redskins fanatic - always wearing the burgundy-and-gold cap - in Apartment 307. He would bring the staff members Hershey's Kisses from his outings to CVS or cookies from the McDonald's on 17th Street in Northwest Washington, where he would play pickup chess.

"I offered to replace his AC unit once, and he said not to bother," said building engineer Damian Greenleaf, who took a half day off from work to attend Moore's funeral at Arlington. "He said, 'Don't bother, I prefer the breeze.' "

It was Bill Sheppard and Nick Addams who spearheaded the effort to make Moore's funeral something more than minimal. The two single retirees count themselves among the State House's "sociables," those residents who make a point to chat in the lobby, to pierce the urban anonymity of a busy city dwelling.

"Not like these millennials staring down at their phones with the things in their ears," said Addams, a spry 81-year-old retired lawyer and nightclub owner. "You say hi to them in the elevator, and they just look puzzled."



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Moore was a sociable, too. That's how they pieced together bits of his history: A stint in the Navy, dispatched to the Philippines; a few years in the Coast Guard. He had worked at a federal warehouse and then for an insurance company, maybe as a janitor. For a man who loved to gab and could delay the mail carrier with a half-hour of football talk, he didn't share much about himself.

"We knew a little, but there were big gaps in it," Sheppard said.

He had no family, about that he was clear. He told more than one person that his mother was a Native American who dropped him off at a Catholic orphanage in Omaha.

"I always assumed it was Boys Town," said Sheppard, 65, who retired young from a career with an international airport vendor. "He was quite proud of it. He said the priests and the nuns taught him discipline."

Boys Town confirmed that an Andrew Moore with the same birthday lived at the famous facility in 1942 when he was 16, but not for long. "We don't know much, because he was only with us a month and then he ran away," said spokeswoman Kara Neuverth.

Moore was in his 70s when Sheppard moved to the building 15 years ago. Moore had a knack for putting strangers at ease, and the two struck up a smokers' friendship outside the front door. Soon Sheppard was helping his upstairs neighbor make sense of the cable box. They watched a few games together even though Sheppard is no football fan.

"It was impossible not to like him," Sheppard said. Moore's health faded in recent years, as did his memory. He began to call Nick Addams "Calvin" for unknown reasons. "I just answered to it," Addams said with a laugh.



Nick Adams, left, and Bill Sheppard, center, worked to bury Andrew Moore with military honors.

After a fall in 2014, Moore spent time in a rehabilitation hospital. Officials there had a court-appointed guardian assigned to him and wanted to move him to a nursing home. But Moore insisted on returning to the State House.



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"Mr. Moore was a very strong-willed character, and he was having none of it," said attorney Charles Fitzpatrick, who served as Moore's guardian. "I was dubious, but I really admired the fact that he was able to do what he wanted to do."

Moore came back with a walker, always asserting he would soon be done with it. He never walked unaided again, but he did live another eight months on his own.

"This was his home," Addams said.

Then an ambulance pulled up in December, Sheppard immediately thought of Moore. Sure enough, a desk clerk told him Moore had been taken to MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. A few days later, a manager told him he had died of heart failure.

Sheppard and Addams were in the lobby, lamenting the loss of their neighbor. That could have been it. He wasn't exactly a friend. They didn't know much about him. It was city living; people come and go.

But they kept thinking of two things: the Navy and the Coast Guard.

"I'm a veteran, too," said Addams, who served in the Army during the Korean War. "I thought we should do something."

Addams is also a D.C. tour guide, a retirement gig that has made him very familiar with the rites and rituals of Arlington National Cemetery. He knew that while it was hard to qualify for an Arlington grave, any veteran with someone pushing for him could have his ashes inurned there, with full military honors.

It was an instant plan. Sheppard was the writer, drafting the appeal for funds they would hang on every doorknob in the building. Addams was the paper pusher, digging up Moore's service record from the Pentagon, navigating the bureaucracies.

"The medical examiner's office was extremely helpful," Addams said. When a person there "heard that he was a veteran, she said they could arrange for him to be buried at Quantico. But we were committed to Arlington. There is no place like Arlington."

Under D.C. law, unclaimed or indigent deceased are cremated at public expense and buried with multiple sets of ashes in a single casket. Veterans, when they are identified, are sent to Quantico National Cemetery. But after a 30-day waiting period, anyone willing to shoulder the expense of burial can arrange to have the body sent to a funeral home.





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"It doesn't happen in a lot of our cases, but we do see the community come together like this, church members, neighbors," said Jennifer Love, a forensic anthropologist at the agency. "We call it releasing to the 'next of friend.' "

Finally, bearing a letter from the medical examiner's office explaining how he came to have custody of Moore's remains, Addams went to Arlington. At first, officials were reluctant to recognize him as the crucial PADD (Person Authorized to Direct Disposition). "I had to ask for a supervisor," Addams said. "Usually they are talking to a brother or a close friend. I was just the guy down the hall."

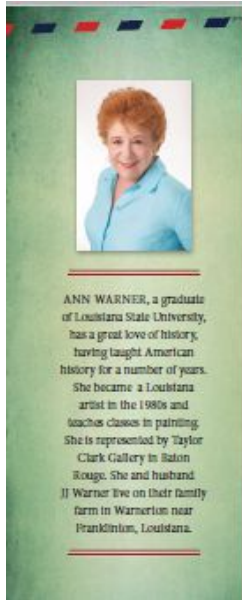
Meanwhile, Sheppard's solicitations were paying off. Envelopes began to slide under Addams's door: \$5, \$20, a few \$50s, one check for \$250. In all, State House residents gave about \$2,000 to honor a man some had never said more than hello to. The pair sent each donor a thank-you note and, when plans were complete, information about the funeral.

They spent about \$1,500 on the cremation, a cremation certificate, the death certificate. They will give the leftover money to a veterans group.

They decided not to buy a special urn. Moore wouldn't have cared about that, they said.

So Friday, with a cool wind whipping across Arlington's hills, the Stars and Stripes draped the cardboard box containing Moore's ashes. A Coast Guard honor guard folded the flag with grave precision before handing it to Sheppard. After the ceremony, Addams was given a felt bag containing the 21 shells fired in Moore's honor.

And as his neighbors - make that his family - looked on, a man who spent his life alone took his place for eternity amid a host of heroes.

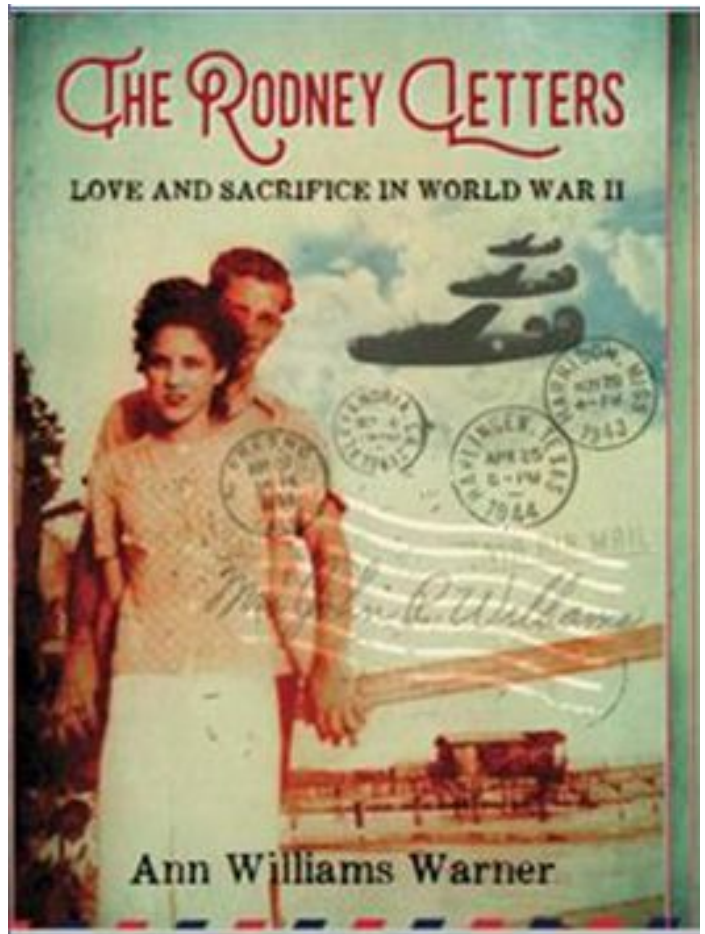


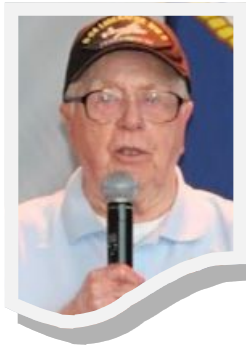
# The Long-Awaited Rodney Letters by Ann Williams Warner

Ever since the Indianapolis Reunion, when Ann Williams-Warner first filled the memorabilia tables with her historic collection of war-time letters from her dad, written during his tour of duty, the encouragement that Ann has received from 307th BG members and friends has finally come to fruition.

*"October 26, 1944, John Rodney Williams, my father, a nose gunner, was killed in action when his plane, piloted by Lt. Russell Sutphin of West Virginia, went into a spin and plummeted into the ocean after losing its #4 engine; the #3 engine was lost over the target, the Japanese naval fleet. The plane was 1 hour and 10 minutes into its return flight to its New Guinea base."*

The Rodney Letters will soon be in print. This touching and heart-felt story is a tribute to the love and sacrifice that one young family endured during World War II. We are hoping to see copies available by the Nashville trip.





Hello everyone, Ray Perkins here,

As you may know, I am a dual member of the 13th AFA and the 307th BG. For decades, I have worn the colors, slogans and images of the War in the Pacific. Hats, Jackets, shirts and God knows what else have been in my closet for more years than I can remember. Of course, the years have passed, but the memories still remain.

I have presented an idea and a design for an embroidery to the 307th BG, for your review.

This page is more of a survey to see if enough folks would be interested in having this embroidered design applied to any jacket of your choice. Basically, if we can peak enough interest in the design, our costs would come down and we'll be able to make it affordable to as many folks who want it.

Below are the layout and the proposed costs of the embroidery and the minimum quantity needed to meet the price. Right now, we are just counting the number of interested parties. Please look over the material below and send a brief email to me at [perk1922@yahoo.com](mailto:perk1922@yahoo.com) to let me know if you would be interested in having this historic design on any article of clothing you wish, and how many you would be willing to order, after the survey is completed.



The design to the left is proposed to be 9" X 9" and embroidered on the upper back of any jacket, coat, sweatshirt, etc.

We need to cover \$200 for the pre-production costs!

Once the pre-production costs are covered, and we have determined the number of embroideries to be ordered. each embroidery will have a Run Charge based on quantity.

Let me know if you are interested in ordering this embroidery. Email your comments to me at [perk1922@yahoo.com](mailto:perk1922@yahoo.com)

Based on a goal of 10, 20, and 40 reservations, the costs will be as follows

Minimum of 10 Reserved Embroideries

**Run Charge: \$55**

Minimum of 20 Reserved Embroideries

**Run Charge: \$45**

4Minimum of 40 Reserved Embroideries

**Run Charge: \$40**



# The Historian's Corner

with Jim McCabe

Dear 307th BG Association members and friends,

A few weeks ago, April 9th, 2016, our USAF 307th Bomb Wing servicemen and women from Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, were deployed in the fight against ISIS.

This is their mission statement:

The 307th Bomb Wing is a diverse wing, flying and maintaining 20 B-52H Strato-fortress aircraft.

The 307th Operations Group oversees three squadrons: the 93rd Bomb Squadron, which operates the B-52 Formal Training Unit and qualifies aircrew to operate the B-52 in active association with the 11th Bomb Squadron,

2nd Operations Group, the 343rd Bomb Squadron, which performs the nuclear enterprise and global strike missions in classic association with the 2nd Operations Group, and the 307th Operations Support Squadron, which provides intelligence, aircrew life support and range operations services to the wing's full range of B-52 missions.

The 489th Bomb Group, a geographically separated unit, operates in classic association with the 7th Operations Group at Dyess AFB, flying the B-1 Lancer.

In addition, the wing produces sorties for the 340th Weapons Squadron and the 49th Test and Evaluation Squadron to accomplish their missions.

<http://www.307bw.afrc.af.mil/Home.aspx>

Jim McCabe, Historian

307th BG Assoc.

[www.307bg.net](http://www.307bg.net)

[james-mccabe@comcast.net](mailto:james-mccabe@comcast.net)





## About Growing Old..er!

By 100 yr. old Bill Grisaitis

307th BG - 370th BS

Radio Operator / Waist Gunner

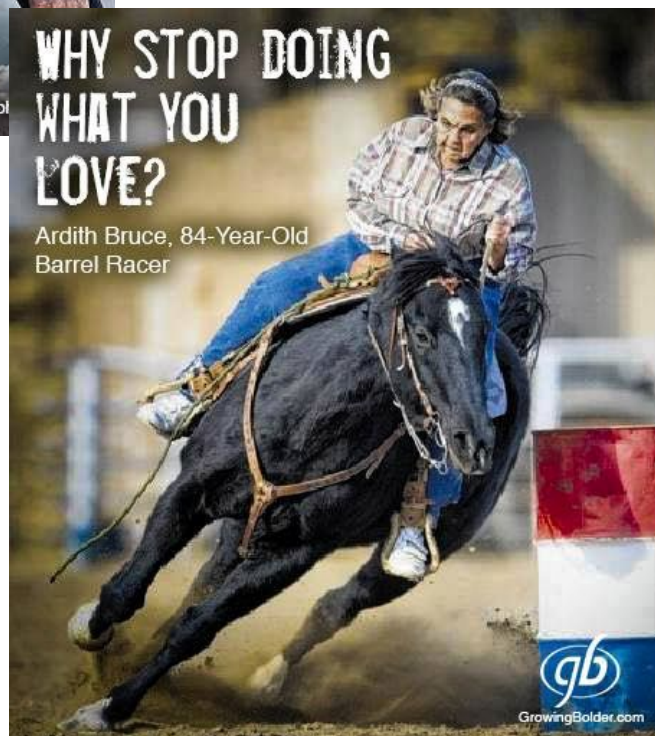
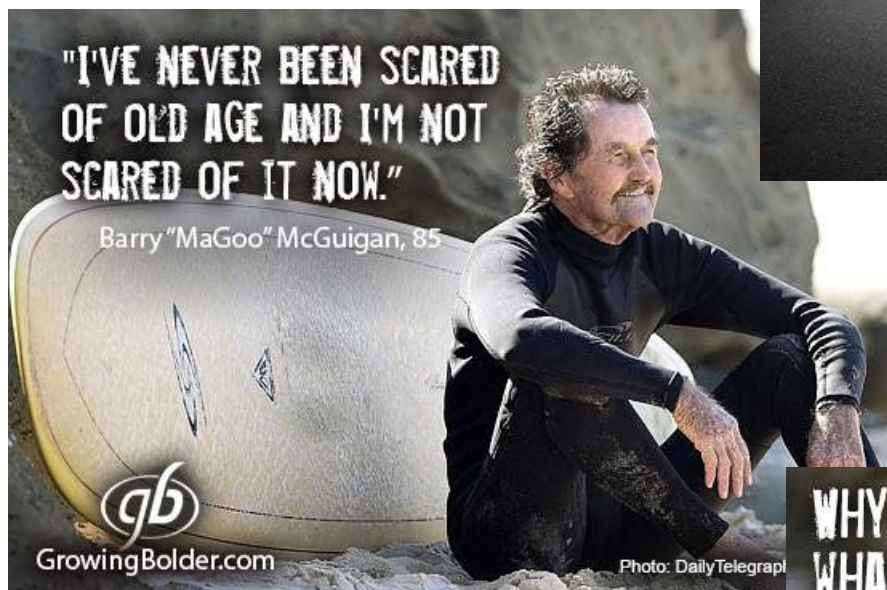
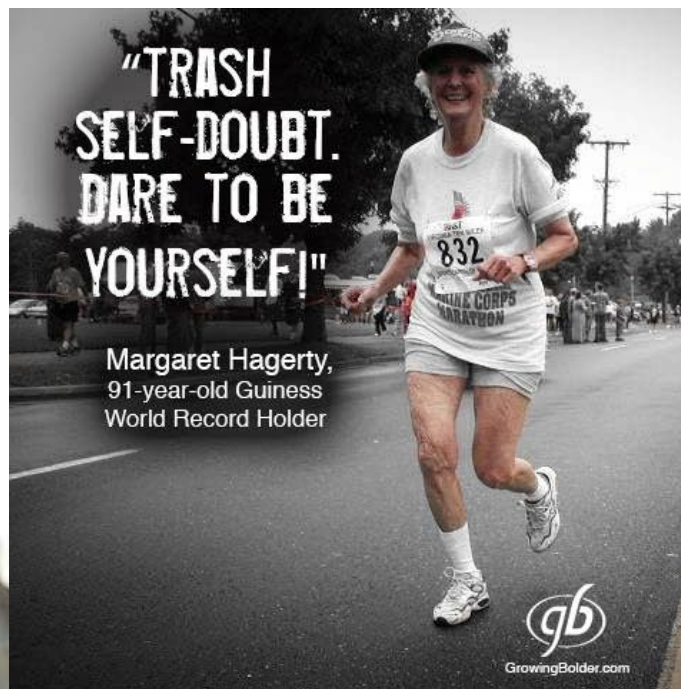


**"Optimism is going after Moby Dick in a rowboat and taking the tartar sauce with you!"**

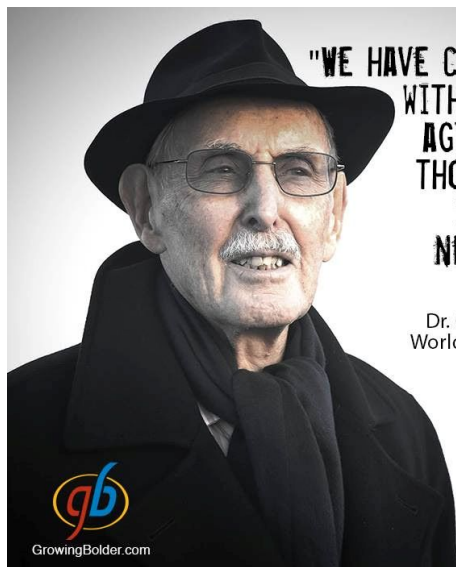
Here are a few of Bill's favorite "old..er people"












**"WE HAVE CONFUSED ILLNESS WITH THE PROCESS OF AGING, WHICH CAN BE THOROUGHLY HEALTHY. ILLNESS IS NOT A NECESSARY PART OF AGING!"**

Dr. Charles Eugster, 94-year-old World Masters Rowing Champion



**gb**  
GrowingBolder.com

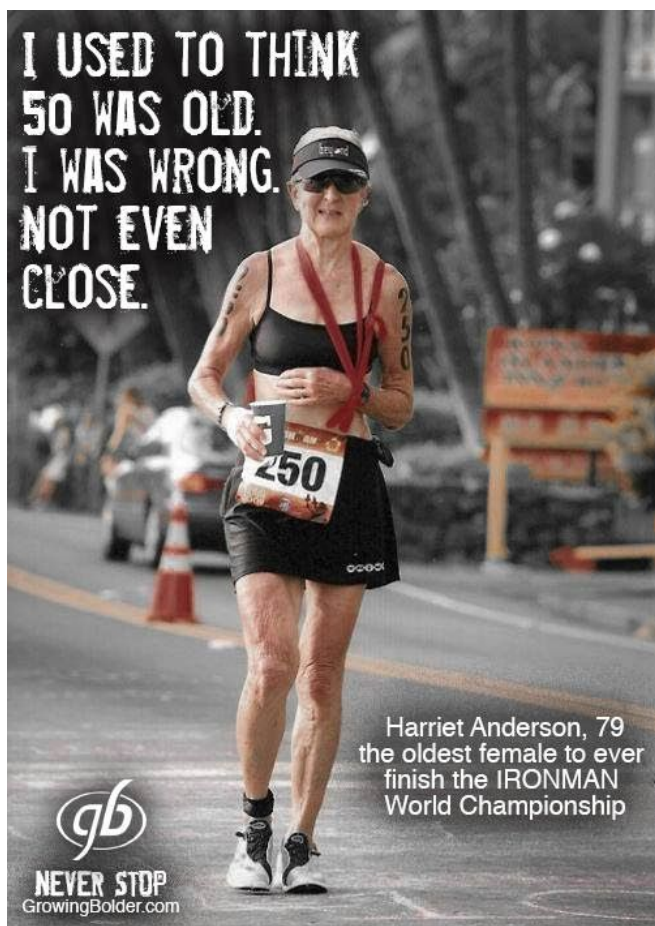
**IDA'S LONGEVITY SECRETS:**

Ida Keeling, 99 World Record Holder

**"EAT FOR NUTRITION. NOT FOR TASTE. DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO. NOT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AND DON'T LEAVE OUT YOUR DAILY EXERCISE. LOVE YOURSELF."**

**gb**  
GrowingBolder.com

**I USED TO THINK 50 WAS OLD. I WAS WRONG. NOT EVEN CLOSE.**



Harriet Anderson, 79 the oldest female to ever finish the IRONMAN World Championship

**gb**  
**NEVER STOP**  
GrowingBolder.com

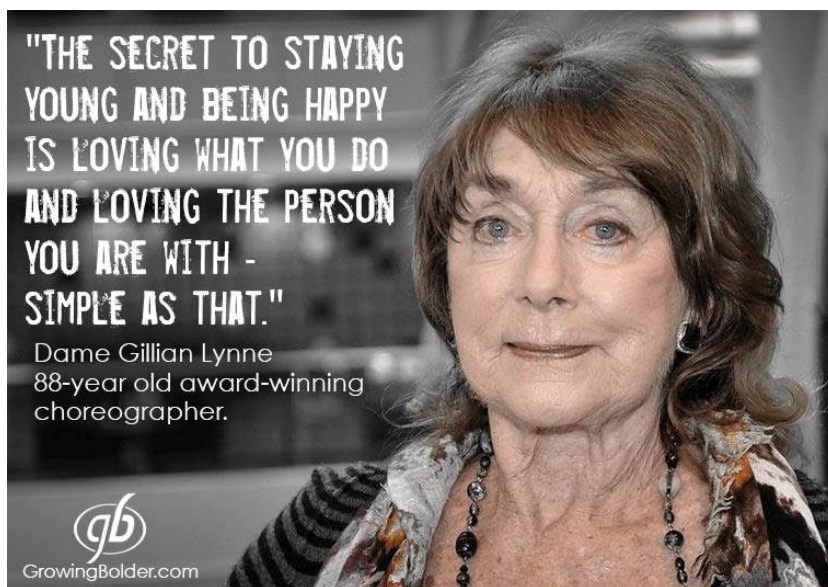
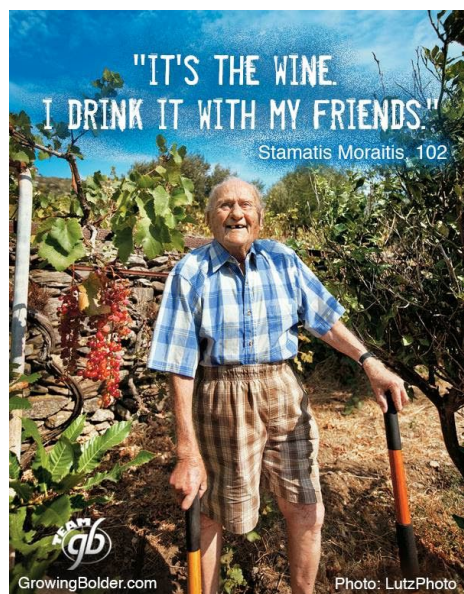
**"YOU JUST DON'T LET THAT ROCKING CHAIR TAKE OVER. YOU GET UP AND GO EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO."**

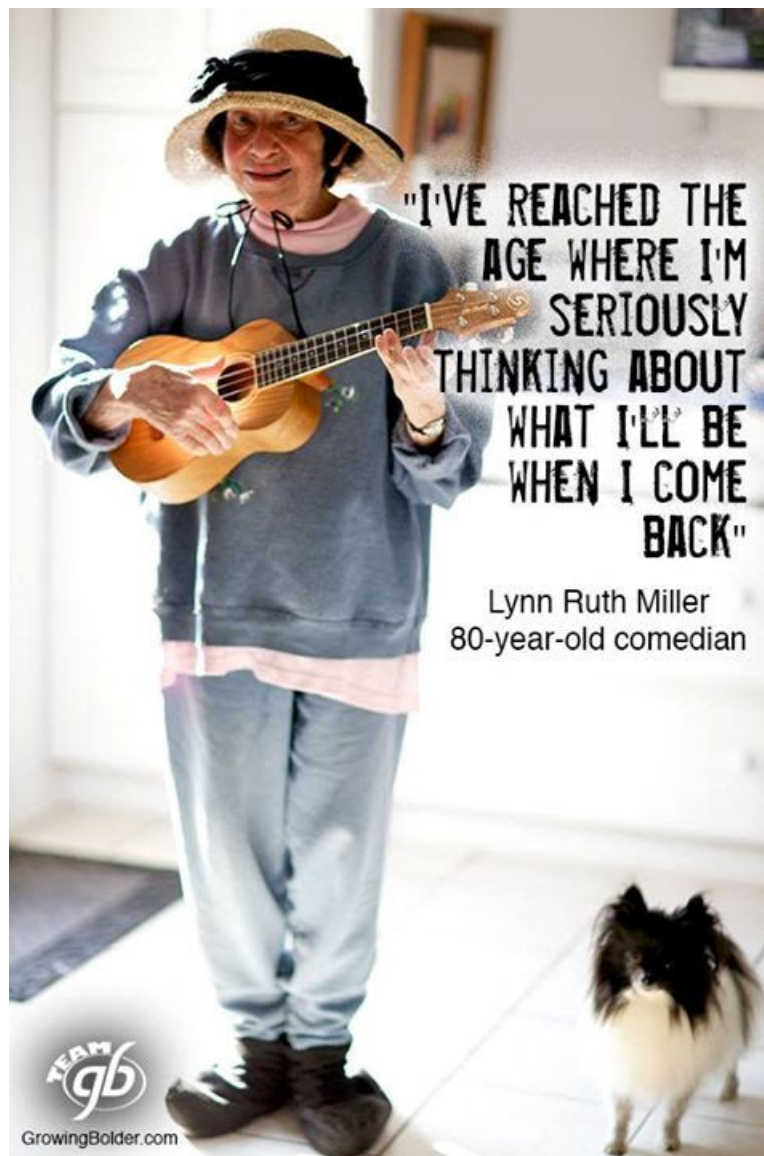


Constance Reeves, 102-Year-Old Cowgirl

**gb**  
GrowingBolder.com







Bill,  
Thanks again for your inspiration. Some of us needed that!

<http://307bg.net/memoirs/Grisaitis.pdf>



# Final Flights



## Forrest Adrian Randle

January 5, 1922 - January 1, 2016

Forrest Adrian Randle, 93, died Friday, January 01, 2016, at Marcy House. Graveside services will be at 3:00 PM Monday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

Adrian was born January 5, 1922, in Guthrie, Oklahoma to Harry and Ida Esther Randle. He graduated from Ponca City High School, Ponca City, Oklahoma on May 29, 1941. He later received a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Central State College in Oklahoma on May 20, 1948. He was a member of the Academic Organization Kappa Delta PI and Alpha Phi Sigma.

He entered the army during WWII, served with the 307th Bombardment Group on a B-24 as an aerial gunner in New Guinea and the Dutch East Indies. He received the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and the Air Medal.

Adrian married Mary Carolyn Emrick on April 16, 1948, in Wellston, Oklahoma. She preceded him in death on February 28, 2001. He retired from Texas Electric after 31 years. He served on the Howard College Board of Trustees for 12 years. Adrian was a strong advocate of education. He loved sporting dogs and cats.

He is survived by distant cousins and a host of friends.

In lieu of flowers, Adrian had requested memorials to your favorite charity.

# Final Flights



## Robert Edwin Rowland

Mar. 1, 1924 - Apr. 15, 2016

Born March 1, 1924 in Jackson, Minnesota to Ed and Olga (Ellefsen) Rowland. Died April 15, 2016, Cameron Woods, Angola, Indiana

Bob Rowland had quite a journey in his 92 years.

He grew up during the Depression in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood of St. Paul, Minnesota. His father worked for the Minnesota State Highway Department and his Norwegian mother, Olga, took care of he and his younger brother, Jack. His whole life, Bob was a proud Minnesotan and Norwegian. An accomplished student, he graduated from high school a semester early at the age of 17. He then began his undergraduate studies in Civil Engineering at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, not far from where he grew up. Bob mainly lived at home during college, taking the street car to campus, and “occasionally” visiting his fraternity to socialize.

One year after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and after completing his first freshman quarter, Robert Rowland enlisted in the Army on December 12, 1942, eventually pursuing Flight School in the Army Air Corps. After receiving Basic Training, Bob would graduate Flight School with the highest honors of his group, receiving assignment to fly B-24 Bombers in the South Pacific. His brother Jack would later also enlist and serve in the Infantry in the Battle of the Bulge. Olga was overjoyed when both her sons returned from war intact. Although he didn’t discuss his Military Service frequently, Bob was a decorated World War II veteran and hero, receiving multiple Air Medals and the Bronze Star Medal. He served as a Co-Pilot to Pilot Garfield Crawford in the 13<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 307<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Long Rangers), 424<sup>th</sup> Squadron, primarily flying out of Morotai Island. Arriving at Morotai in September, 1944, he flew his first mission the first week of October. Lt. Rowland served on nearly 50 missions, most being long range (up to 17 hours) bombing runs across thousands of miles of the Pacific Ocean.



## Robert Edwin Rowland (continued)

Some of the more famous missions included bombing raids on Balikpapan and Tarakan Oil Refinery, the source of 35% of the Japanese military's fuel. Due to the high rate of damage during battle to their planes, Bob's flight crew never flew the same plane twice. Bob was lucky - on his very first mission 24 bombers went out, but only 10 returned. Most 307<sup>th</sup> BG veterans did not survive over 40 missions.

After completing his World War II service, Bob returned to "the U" to finish his Engineering studies. Graduating in 1948, he began working at the Minnesota Highway Department, then moved on to various Engineering and Construction Project Management positions across the country, including working for Peter Kiewit and other engineering firms. He worked in Greenland for 3 years, providing engineering and oversight for the construction of Tule Air Force Base. After this assignment, Bob traveled for fun in Europe, Mexico and other locales.

Bob then met his first true love, Kathryn Mae Heig of Clark, South Dakota - he convinced her to marry him instead of traveling to San Francisco to see another guy - he met her at O'Hare Airport before she could get on the plane and proposed in Chicago at the Palmer House.

He and Katie had their first daughter in New Haven, Connecticut, but then decided it was the right thing to settle in a small town in Indiana to raise their family. He had two more children with his beloved Katie - they were both in their late 30's when they started having children. He became a business partner with Richard Mick and formed Mick and Rowland, Consulting Engineers, which eventually became Rowland Associates, Inc. Bob ran his engineering and surveying business in Angola, Indiana for nearly 50 years.

After dealing with cancer for 7 years, Katie died in 1973 at age 51. Bob was devastated, but always philosophical - he was grateful for the time they had together - that's how he would reassure his children. He and Katie were only married for 18 years. With children aged 16, 13 and 10, Bob acted as a single parent while running his business.

For Bob, it was all about his kids. He was always positive about what his kids could do - he encouraged and would say, matter-of-factly, "it's ok, you're really smart, you can do anything..."



# Final Flights



## Robert Edwin Rowland (continued)

He would literally give you the shirt off his back and the money in his wallet – whatever you needed. He put his kids through college, then remarried in 1984. After 7 years, his second wife also died from cancer. He then met another very nice lady whom he has had a nice relationship with for the last nearly 20 years.

Bob was a beloved father, husband, buddy and friend. He was comedian, pilot – he had his own Bonanza V tail plane for many years, artist, bookworm, philosopher, scholar. He was witty, introspective, compassionate, jovial, quiet, contemplative and could be really tough if he had to be. Bob could be very charming, many times would act like a little kid, was very independent but liked to be taken care of. He wasn't outwardly social, but could be the life of the party. He was a pretty good bowler and golfer (he had a hole in one), chess player and crossword buff, but mainly Bob was a wonderful father and grandfather who loved to have a good time and a good laugh.

Before he moved into his current house, he had a pool at the house where his family grew up...he loved his pool, swimming, taking care of it, sunning himself and getting "brown as a berry..". He loved to exercise, which is probably why he lived to 92. And he was fascinated with birds and nature.

We all say so long, Bob...you are the best.

We will miss you dearly...In the immortal (immoral?) words of Arnold Schwarzenegger, and as you always would say, "Hasta la vista, Baby!! – We can't wait to see you again...

Love,  
Your family and friends

Survived by his three children and spouses, and four grandchildren, all of Berkeley, California.

Elizabeth (Betsy) and Jeff Lance;

Jean Rowland, Keith Storey and their children, Anna and Evan

James Rowland, Elizabeth Brusnahan and their children, Julia and Alexander

Also, survived by his very special friend, Henrietta Wells, of Angola.

# Final Flights

## Bruno DalPoggetto

Passed away on December 5, 2015. Preceded in death by Olga, his loving wife of 56 years. Survived by his daughter Lisa Park and her husband Michael, of Mundelein, Illinois; granddaughter Carley Desmond; niece Nancy Johnson and her husband Sam and family; nephew Edward DalPoggetto; and Bruno's lady friend, Anne Ciocca. Bruno was a lifelong resident of Santa Rosa and operated his Mobile Gas Station "Bruno's Service" for over 42 years. He was a longtime member of the Santa Rosa Druids, and a U.S. Army Veteran who served his country during WWII. Bruno's family would like to extend their gratitude to the wonderful staff and nurses of the Lodge at Paulin Creek, Clare Bridge Unit,



who cared for him in his final years. Friends are invited to attend a Visitation on Thursday, December 10, 2015 from 3:00-8:00 p.m. at Daniels Chapel of the Roses, 1225 Sonoma Ave., Santa Rosa. A Catholic Liturgy Service with Military Honors will be held on Friday, Dec. 11th at 1:00 p.m. at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, 2930 Bennett Valley Rd., Santa Rosa. If desired, donations in Bruno's memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 2290 N. First St., San Jose, CA 95131 or ALZ.org



## William C. Rogers

## Final Flights

My Dad did not talk about the war that much, but he did tell a few stories.

He talked about being on the wing of the plane when two Zeros came over the trees. He took off and dove into a trench, but his buddy hid under the plane which was hit and his buddy was killed.

Another time he said he was on the wing of the plane and the man next to him was killed by a sniper. They had to stop working, kill the sniper and then climb right back up on that wing and go back to work.

His wildest tale was that half of the island they were on was American and the other half Japanese. The Japanese side had the pineapples and he and a buddy wanted some. So, they stole a motorcycle, rode into enemy territory and got their pineapples. However, on the way back the motorcycle fell over on Dad's leg and the muffler burned him.....a scar he had forever.

He also told me about going on R&R in Australia. When his time was up, he was not done partying so he went AWOL for a few days. I asked him why he did not get arrested and he said they needed aircraft mechanics so badly that they could not afford to do anything but send him back to his plane.

The only picture I ever saw of him in the Pacific he was sitting next to a palm tree with some of his buddies with a Tommy gun across his lap.

His folks tried to get him to buy the life insurance, but he refused. Said it was a waste of money because he was coming back....which he did.

When he was discharged, he bought a used Harley and rode it home to Wisconsin from California.

From those tales and a few others he told, I gathered that he was a bit of a wild man in the service. And, I think that the war impacted him for life and manifested itself in a history of heavy drinking, heavy smoking and some other issues. But, he always tried to be a good Dad and taught me what it meant to be a man. Those men were true heroes. And, even those who made it though with no visible wounds suffered for what they saw and lived through.

From everything I read and the more I learn, the less I am able to comprehend the guts it took to do what they did.

Again, thanks! Steffen Rogers



# Final Flights



## William B. Fawcett

Born: November 14, 1922

Died: April 05, 2016

After a rapid decline in health, William Bloys Fawcett died on April 5, 2016 at the age of 93. He passed away at the dream home (known affectionately as Nsaka, which means “place of gathering” in Bemba) that he designed and built with the love of his life, Frances Gilbert Fawcett. The youngest of three children, William was the last surviving child of the late Leslie Clarence Fawcett and Estelle Virginia Bloys (preceded in death by his sister Catherine Benner and his brother Leslie Clarence Jr.). Named after his grandfather, Rev. William Bloys (a Presbyterian circuit-rider minister in Ft Davis TX), William spent his life in the service of his community as a veteran, a father, active church member, and entrepreneur.

William put aside his pursuit of a college degree to serve in the Army Air Corps during World War II. From 1943-1945 he served in the Pacific as a B-24 bombardier. Although he had many entertaining stories of the pranks and antics of his fellow airmen, William was always adamant that the horrors of war were to be avoided and he strongly advocated for the pursuit of peaceful solutions. Returning from the war he was married briefly to Dorie Watts, and together they had a daughter, Susan (Brewer).

While serving at the House of Neighborly Service William met Frances Gilbert. Throughout their 51 year marriage they contributed through their family and through their work with the Boy Scouts of America (William became an Eagle Scout and served as a troop leader after the war), the House of Neighborly Service (San Antonio), San Antonio Habitat for Humanity (serving on the board and in other capacities), hosting African scholars in their pursuit of collegiate degrees, and in many other ways on a day to day basis.

# Final Flights



## William B. Fawcett (continued)

Born: November 14, 1922  
Died: April 05, 2016

When he was in his 80s William made certain to visit the “senior citizens” at the VA Hospital in Kerrville and at the Rainbow Senior Center in Boerne.

William was active in the Presbyterian Church throughout his life, serving in many capacities while living in San Antonio (Denver Blvd/Bethany 1921-1945 and Los Angeles Heights 1945-1978) and Boerne (St. Mark 1978-2016). He served on the session, taught Sunday school, and made a wide variety of clever and durable toys and playground equipment for the Kindergartens. To many, he is still known as “Mr. Bill”.

From 1946-2006 William was co-owner (mostly with Truett Moore) of Fawcett Furniture Company. Commonly referred as “The Store”, it began in Kerrville TX around 1900 before opening in San Antonio (1921). More than just a furniture store, William and Truett made sure their customers were cared for in all aspects of their lives. From collecting and reading the mail for a blind customer to housing George Kline’s infamous fruit peddling, The Store was a critical resource for many in downtown San Antonio.

As much as he believed in living life in the service of others, William loved his family even more. William and Frances raised four wonderful children: Ruth (now known as Sarah) Estelle, William Bloys Jr., Frank Leslie, and Carl Gilbert Fawcett. His family was his greatest joy and his smile was never brighter than when the grand- and great-grandkids would visit. Always mindful that he was never able to finish his college education, William ensured that each of his children could pursue the career of their choice.



## and The Newsletter / Video Archive

**Yes indeed!** The 307th BGA has a Facebook Page, and everyone is welcome to stop by, upload some photos, post a few stories and start communicating with fellow members, family members and guests.

B-29 Restored with New Engines ~~

Click on the nose of the B-29 when it comes on the screen....

This is Fifi. It is the only flying B-29 Strato Fortress in the world.... See More



Click [HERE](#) to open Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Long-Rangers-WWII-Heroes-of-the-Pacific/1400775130222179?ref=hl>

Or, just search [ [The Long Rangers - WWII Heroes of the Pacific](#) ] on Facebook.

Oh! And don't forget to **"LIKE"** the page!

OK! When's the last time you stopped by the **Newsletter Archive?**

<http://www.307bg.net/Newsletters/index.asp>

You now have a calendar list of past newsletters along with the addition of Videos, taken and submitted by members and guests from past 307th Reunions.

A lot of work went in to building these pages (actually, it was more fun than work) and there is a lot to see.

You don't have to miss out on anything! **Stop by soon.**

