

REUNION NEWS

NEWS FROM
THE 307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV)
ASSOCIATION

2006 REUNION IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



August 2006

Issue 4

WELCOME TO SEATTLE AND THE 2006 REUNION!



Welcome to Bellevue, the Greater Seattle area, and the State of Washington for the 16th reunion of the 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association "*The Long Rangers*." I was honored two years ago in Nashville when you selected Seattle as the site of our 2006 Reunion and entrusted me with the task of organizing this event.

During the past two years, as I have been preparing the Reunion, I've spoken often here in Washington about the 307th returning to the state where it originated. Many of the people who worked behind the scenes to make this Reunion both enjoyable and meaningful for you are just as excited that you are here as I hope that you are to be here. From the staff of the Hyatt, to the drivers at GrayLine Tours, from the people at the Seattle Mariners to the public information office at McChord Air Force Base, from the musicians of the Kings of Swing to our local photographer, they are in awe of what the members of the 307th accomplished for our country and they are eager to meet you, your spouses, and your guests.

As you spend time here at the reunion, you'll notice that we have a number of volunteers as well. Ms. Emily Mount, a graduate of the University of Washington, will be conducting the Oral History Interviews for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. She will be assisted by Mr. Derek Poppe, an Eagle Scout Candidate who is coordinating other volunteers: Victoria A. Kunze, C/4C, and Matthew E. Murphey, C/3C, cadets from the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, and many others. Look for volunteers with their distinctive names tags and let them know if there is anything they can assist you with.

Take a look at the letters of greeting displayed in the Memorabilia Room. Your reunion has been noted and recognized for the significant event that it is by a number of communities across Washington State. It has been noted with appreciation by our Governor in Olympia. And your role in serving your country and joining together here in this 16th biennial reunion has been noted with respect and gratitude at the national level as well.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors of the 307th for their support of my work in putting this event together. Each member of the Board was generous with their time, encouragement, constructive criticism, and helpful suggestions during many conference calls, letters, and emails during the past two years. I especially appreciate their positive attitude and sense of humor. My respect for their commitment to you, the members of the 307th Bombardment Group Association, has grown the more I have worked with them.

My father, S/Sgt. Walter A. Babinski, never knew that the 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association existed. I'm sure that if he had known, he would have enjoyed meeting his old friends in the 424th, sharing stories with all the 307th Bomb Group members and guests, and joining you all in this event.

Best wishes for a pleasant and memorable 2006 Reunion!

Sincerely,

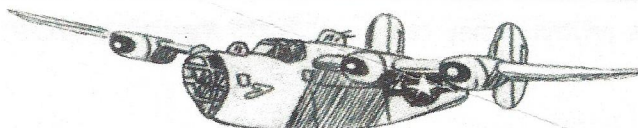
Greg Babinski
2006 Reunion Chair



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
	Missing Aircrew Project Presentation on 2005 Trip to Yap by Mr. Pat Ranfranz Opening Day Social	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
	Oral History Interviews	Throughout the day	Birch Room
	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
	Oral History Interviews	Throughout the day	Birch Room
	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	Grand ABCD
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 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 tour departure times. Please be on time so that the tour bus can depart on schedule.

All tours depart from the Hotel Lobby Loading Area.

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

Mount Rainier National Park Tour

Wednesday @ 8:30 am

Duration: 8 hours

This tour includes admission to Mt. Rainier National Park, bus

Museum of Flight Tour

Thursday @ 9:00 am

Duration: 3-1/2 hours

This tour includes your admission to the Museum of Flight

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

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

McChord Air Force Base Tour

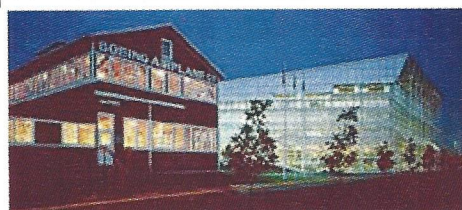
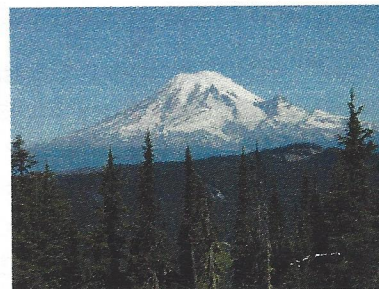
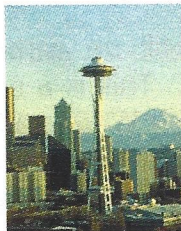
Friday @ 9:00 am: Duration: 6 hours

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

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



SPECIAL

PRESENTATIONS:

Wednesday during the evening social:

Mr. Pat Ranfranz will describe his recent trip to Yap and the work of the Missing Aircrew Program.

Saturday at 1:30 p.m.:

Dr. Pat Scannon will provide an update on his most recent trip to Palau and the work of the Bent Prop Project.

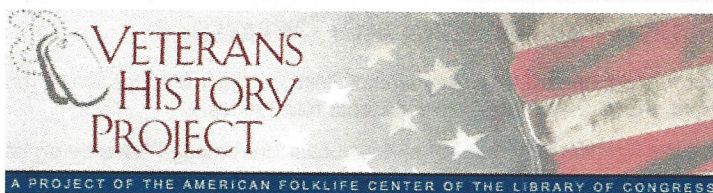
VOLUNTEERS:

Special thanks to all the volunteers assisting with the 2006 Reunion:

- Emily Mount (Historian)
- Derek Poppe (Volunteer Coordinator)
- C/3C Matthew E. Murphey AFROTC
- C/3C, Victoria A. Kunze, AFROTC
- Peter Rasmussen
- Jeff Bayley
- Chaffin Hornor
- Matt Sims
- Carl Garret
- Daniel Naylor
- Joey Nishida
- Tyler Herr



VETERANS: SIGN UP FOR US LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEWS



Thursday and Friday throughout the day

The 307th Bombardment Group will be participating during the Reunion in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. This is a unique opportunity for 307th Bombardment Group Veterans to preserve and share their WWII and Korean War stories as a permanent part of the US Library of Congress Veterans History Project Collection.

What is it? 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 Clinton on October 27, 2000. The goal of the Veterans History Project is to preserve first hand accounts of US Veterans from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, through to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The project also preserves the stories of US citizen civilians who supported the war effort, such as working in war industry, USO workers, medical volunteers, etc.

How does it work? Each interview session lasts up to an hour. Each session is video taped, with an interviewer who asks a few simple questions designed to encourage the veteran to talk about some aspect of their service career. The idea is to create a relaxed informal environment, and then just talk about some memorable aspect of life in the 307th. Afterwards, volunteers will make a written transcription of the interview. After the Reunion, copies of the video tapes and transcriptions will be made, with the originals going to the Library of Congress and copies to the vet and to the 307th Bomb Group archives.

Who will be doing the Interviews? Where will they be? Interviews will be conducted in the Birch Room, adjacent to the Memorabilia Room. The interviews will be conducted by, Ms. Emily Mount, a graduate of the University of Washington with a specialty in Military History. Ms. Mount will be assisted by volunteers from the Boy Scouts of America and Air Force ROTC Detachment 910 in Seattle.

How do I participate? See Ms. Emily Mount or any Reunion Volunteer to reserve a time for an interview.

You were a part of history - Make sure your part of the 307th Bomb Group story is preserved! Other groups who have already participated in the Veterans History Project include: The 38th Bomb Group Association, 91st Bomb Group Association, 447th Bomb Group Association, and many other veterans' groups.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The membership meeting is limited to members only.

The meeting will be held Friday at 7:00 p.m. in Grand ABCD.

Please see the letter from Dottie Kendall regarding disposition of the Historical Collection of the 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association.



James and Dorothy Kendall
2350 Derby Road
Birmingham MI 48009-5817
248-649-2388
August, 2005

Officers and Members
307th BG Association (HV)

Re: Historical Collection of 307th BG (HV)

I am writing this letter on behalf of my husband, Jim Kendall, who has been the Historian for the 307th since the early 1980's. As you all know, he has enjoyed doing it and getting to know many of you through your letters, phone calls, stories, memorabilia, books and by meeting and talking with you in person at the Reunions. He has attended every Reunion since he started. And he has also enjoyed producing the reunion books every other year as a reminder/record of the meetings and fun you have experienced at those reunions.

Now however, due to his health, we face a problem of disposition of the many items he has collected. There are books, videos, various items of memorabilia, microfilms, pictures, records, a record copy of reunion books, and volumes of correspondence with various 307th members, many of which include stories of missions and other experiences.

Over the years Jim has been concerned with the eventual disposition of that collection. We have visited the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio; the National Archives in Washington DC; the SAC Museum in Nebraska and he visited the Air Force Historical Resource Agency located at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. For many years, Jim has said he considered the AFHRA by far the best place to send the 307th records and collection.

Therefore, I have researched the AFHRA and have talked to the archivist personally. They are more than happy to accept the 307th collection as they have already many such collections from other groups. Their procedure is to keep the collection together in one location so that anyone looking for information on a family member, friend, or simply looking for information as a historian might, can ask for the 307th records. The AFHRA will organize, index, file and cross-file everything and store it at no cost to the group, other than shipping.

On Jim's behalf, I am asking for your approval to execute this agenda. I am willing to box everything, list contents of each box, label boxes, etc. as necessary. We have a daughter and her husband located in Georgia (who attended the Nashville reunion) who have volunteered to pick up the material with their truck and another daughter located in Michigan who is willing to accompany them for personal delivery of the material to Maxwell. They will do this at only their cost for gas and accommodations. In my opinion, this would be much simpler and cheaper. I also feel I am capable of sorting and packing the items as there is no one else in the organization who is familiar with the things in our house. I do ask for a little time to accomplish this but the archivist tells me there is no rush-- only to be kept informed of the 307th plans.

I have asked the officers to present this letter to the membership at the business meeting in Seattle and I ask the membership for their approval of this action.

Sincerely,

Dottie Kendall