



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

August, 2015 Newsletter

New Orleans is right around the corner, and there is so much excitement brewing!

This final newsletter, prior to the reunion, contains some up to the minute news and advisories for all registered family members and friends of the 307th Bombardment Group Association.

WE ARE THE FAMILY! WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF HEROES





On behalf of Lt Col Bruce Bender, Public Affairs Advisor to the Chief of Air Force Reserve AF/REI and the executive core of the 307th Bombardment Group Association and its members, we offer our sincere thanks to one of our own, John Wright, who was invited to participate in the Unveiling of a painting created in honor of the current 307th Bomb Wing. Given the history of the unit and its service to the 307th BG, John was a befitting candidate to represent the 307th Bombardment Group at the unveiling.

The event took place on Monday, 27 July at 10am at the Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC 20008.

John's daughter, Betty Kreder and our Historian, Jim McCabe were in attendance,

John assisted the current commander of the 307th Bomb Wing, Lt Gen Jackson - Chief of Air Force Reserve, Maj Gen Harencak - Air Force Assistant Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration and the artist of the painting, Maj Neary, in the unveiling ceremony.

If you have attended past reunions, John will surely be a familiar face. He attends with his family, including his daughters, Betty Kreder, Carol Bowers and her husband Dave, and granddaughter Lisa Kreder, our PX Manager.

John A. Wright was a T/Sgt. with the 307th BG, 424th BS. His MOS was 866, Radar Operator. He was a combat crew radar specialist as there would be only one bomber on each combat mission with this capability. Each of the four squadrons had only two of these specially equipped B-24 bombers.

Be sure to greet John and say Hi, when you see him in New Orleans.

307th Bombardment Group Family Reunion

September 16-20, 2015

New Orleans, Louisiana

Agenda

Wednesday, September 16 -

- 4:00 p.m. Registration open; welcome and check in at the Drury Inn & Suites
- 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Enjoy the Drury's complimentary "Kick Back Hour" for registered hotel guests, complete with-- hot food and cold beverages, including beer, wine and cocktails
- 4:00 – 10:00 p.m. Memorabilia Room open to members and guests
- 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite open until midnight (...or later?)

Thursday, September 17

- 6:30-9:30 a.m. Complimentary breakfast served at the hotel for registered guests

8:45 – 3:15 *World War II Museum program*, specially customized for the 307th

8:45 a.m. "Wheels up" for bus from hotel to the Museum (**Bring your bus ticket**)

9:00 -10:45 Casual self-guided tour of Museum galleries

11:00 "Beyond All Boundaries" program in the Big Theater

11:45 Buffet Lunch at the Museum

12:45 p.m. Victory Belles Special Performance: "Songs that Won the War"

3:00 p.m. "Wheels up" for bus ride back to the Drury Inn

(if you desire to stay longer at the museum, the museum is a short taxi ride or a six block walk back to the hotel)

4:00 – 10:00 p.m. Memorabilia room remains open until 10:00PM

4:00 p.m. Author appearances in the Memorabilia room

In honor of our veterans, acclaimed military authors Neal Bertrand (*Dad's War Photos*) and Ed DeVos (*The Chaplain's Cross* and *The Stain*) will be available for discussion, questions and book signings in the Memorabilia Room.

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Enjoy the Drury's complimentary "Kick Back Hour" for registered hotel guests

Hospitality Suite open until Midnight or later

Friday, September 18

6:30 – 9:30 a.m. Complimentary breakfast served at the hotel for registered guests

A Day at Leisure in New Orleans with loads of sightseeing options!

Explore the French Quarter

Return to the WW2 Museum-(select the \$6 Extra Day Pass from Thursdays tour)

Take a Carriage Ride or a walking tour

Van tours; or, arrange personal city or river tours through the hotel concierge

The Memorabilia Room will remain open all day

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Enjoy the Drury's complimentary "Kick Back Hour" for registered guests

Hospitality Suite open until Midnight (...or later?)

Saturday, September 19

6:30 – 9:30 a.m. Complimentary breakfast served at the hotel for registered guests

9:30 a.m. Business Meeting of 307th BG Association, Memorabilia Room – ***Members Only***

10:45 Bus departs Drury Inn for special veterans interview program at Museum

11:00 a.m. Special event at the Museum: "Meet the Veterans of the 307th Bomb Group"

Interviews of our veterans

Location: World War II Museum (U.S. Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center)

Open to the public and news media

Another open afternoon at leisure in New Orleans, with loads of sightseeing options!

5:00 p.m. Official Group Photo (Location to be announced)

5:30 p.m. Enjoy the Drury's complimentary "Kick Back Hour" for registered hotel guests

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. 307th Bombardment Group Association Reunion Banquet Dinner

6:00 p.m. Dining room open; cash bar available adjacent to banquet facility

6:30 All guests seated for opening ceremonies and presentation of colors

7:00 Dinner is served

8:00 After-dinner program: special guest speakers, and
our traditional "307th Long Ranger Show"

Hospitality Suite remains open until Midnight (...or later?)

Sunday, September 20

6:30 – 9:30 a.m. Complimentary breakfast served at the hotel for registered guests

Followed by hugs and farewells ... until next year in _____ ???

A graphic of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes, is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the white background.

NOTICE

Special Business Meeting in New Orleans

Tentatively scheduled for Saturday morning at 9:30am in the Memorabilia Room.

A few items of importance will be on the meeting agenda and your vote counts, so plan on attending.

Among other issues, discussions will include:

- Ratification of 2015-2016 dues structure
- The treasurer's report
- Our corporate status 501 c3 for 2016 - Report on 307th BW reunion
- 2016 proposed reunion destinations

Dayton, Ohio Lincoln, Nebraska

San Diego, CA Columbus, GA

Billings, MT Springfield, IL

Branson, MO Reston, VA

Member input welcome!

**Immediately following the Members' Meeting will be
a special event held at the WWII Museum.**

**You won't want to miss this event which is open to the
public and covered by the media.**

Saturday, September 19, 2015

11:00 am

Meet the Veterans of the 307th Bomb Group

US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center

Hear the stories of some of the last remaining veterans of the 307th Bomb Group, active in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. Historian Jim McCabe will moderate the panel of veterans as they share memories of their collective 625 missions from April 1942 to January 1946. Part of the 13th Air Force, the group was known as "The Long Rangers" due to their long missions over long open stretches of the Pacific where they participated in eleven campaigns and received two Distinguished Unit Citations.

This year, the focus of our events are all centered around our individual veterans.

Our Veterans will not only be touring the famed WWII Museum, but they will also take part in a forum that will highlight their military careers for the media and the attending public.

Our Pre-Dinner Events on Saturday will spotlight a few of the vets as we prepare for an evening of fun.

The highlight of the final event on Saturday evening, will be the Long Rangers Show, and a Game Show titled:

“Is your Memory as Good as a WWII Veteran?”

Four Civilians will compete against eight veterans in a test of memory and knowledge of USAAF activity during WWII.

If you are interested in participating, please let Jim Walsh or Jim McCabe know, so we can get you into the show!

Veterans in Attendance:

Captain Jack Palmer - Pilot, 424th Bombardment Squadron

S/Sgt. Ray Perkins - 5th BG HQ

T/Sgt. Milt Potee - Tailgunner, 370th Bombardment Squadron

Lt. William Springer - Navigator, 372nd Bombardment Squadron

T/Sgt. Dale Stickrath - Aerial Gunner, 370th Bombardment Squadron

Lt. Ben Waldo - Bombardier, 424th Bombardment Squadron

T/Sgt. John Wright - Radar Operator, 424th Bombardment Squadron

Something Very Special

An attempt was made last year in Santa Fe to introduce a new membership feature. Unfortunately, it did not come off as planned, due to connectivity issues. We have spent the past year testing and enjoying the 307th Video Chat Room and we are ready to re-introduce it in New Orleans.

If you have friends or family who wish they could join us in New Orleans, but are unable to travel to the reunion this year...**this is for you!**

Members, Stacy Roth and Sonia Garza, will be hosting several opportunities for the home-bound to view, chat and participate in some of the activities using Skype Video Chat! **And it's FREE!**

The Skype Video Chat will be set up in the Memorabilia Room. The schedule will include: Wednesday and Thursday 6:00pm to 9:00pm; Members may also attend the Special Members' Meeting on Skype; and at 6:00pm, join the Saturday Evening Banquet—Long Rangers Show and the Game Show!

So, how easy is this? Very!

See the next page for details.

The 307th Video Chat

Easy Steps:

Step One: Be sure you have a lap-top, tablet or desktop PC with a camera, speakers and microphone, which your veteran or family members will access in comfort.

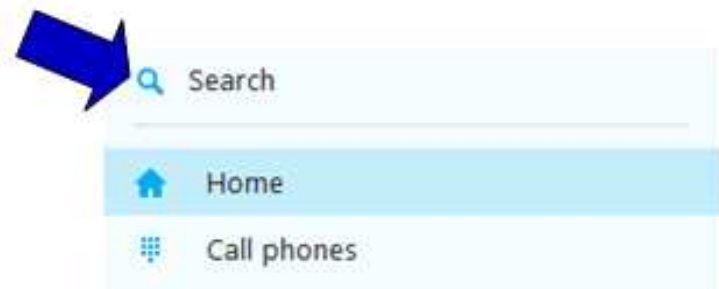
Set the volume at a comfortable level.

Step Two-A: If you already have a Skype account, just send a contact request to: [hq307bg] - you will receive a response to advise that you are connected.

Step Two-B: If you do not have a skype account. No problem, getting one and setting up is very easy.

- 1) Go to: <http://www.skype.com/en/download-skype/skype-for-computer/>
- 2) Select the type of device on which you wish to install Skype (you can add more later)
- 3) Create the Skype account in your “family name” like { Robinson307 }
- 4) Create an easy to remember Password: like: longrangers307
- 5) See step Two-A above and send a contact request to [hq307bg].

Note: to send a contact request, Find the Search Button (on a PC it is at the left column– different on laptops and tablets):



Search for: [hq307bg] When found, just click on the name then click on { Add to Contacts}. Add a note or message, like “I'm Joining the 307th Video Chat”

Now you are now connected: The next page explains the Easy Step of joining a group call at the reunion....

Joining the Video Call

First, check the schedule:

You can Join a call between 6:00pm and 9:00 pm CST (Central time) on Wednesday and Thursday, September 16th and 17th. The Video call will be set up in the Memorabilia Room, where you'll have a chance to chat with some of the vets and family members in attendance.

If you are a current paid member of the 307th BG Association, you may also wish to join the Member's Meeting, Saturday morning (September 19th) to participate in the meeting and cast your vote on current issues.

You can also join the banquet and the Long Rangers Show at any time between 6:15pm and 9:00pm (come early and stay as late as you wish. It's FREE!

Joining a call:

When you log on to your skype account, if the call is in progress, you will be added to the call automatically.

If the call has not started yet. Please just sit and wait a few moments and you will be added to the call manually by Stacy Roth, Sonia Garza or Don Calarco.

Don't wait till the last minute to get stuck! Get your Skype connection ahead of time.

Need help setting up? Just send an email to member.services@307bg.net and we'll be happy to pitch in.

A Special Report—Close to our Hearts

One of our most ardent members concerned over the recovery of Missing Military personnel is surely our vice president, Christine Hoover.



Christine submitted the article below to bring awareness to the efforts that continue still for the recovery of missing WWII military personnel.



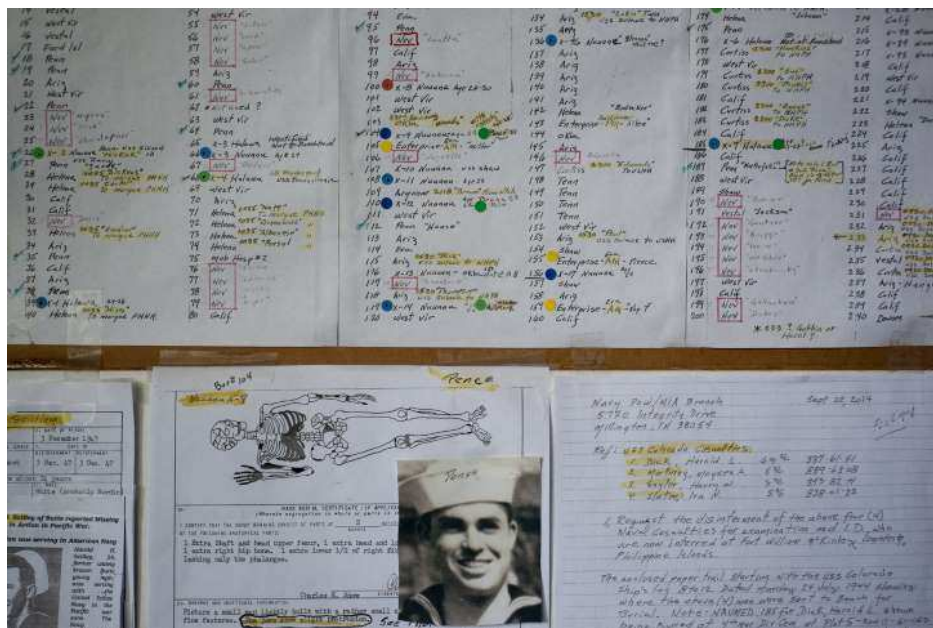
Military personnel transferred five coffins containing unidentified remains from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu last month.

HONOLULU — As the sun broke from behind the billowy clouds hanging over Oahu's Koolau mountains, a detail of seven military personnel transferred five coffins one recent morning, disinterred from two grave sites marked "unknown," at the Punchbowl, the [National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific](#) here in the shallow crater of an extinct volcano.

In the distance, Punchbowl's twin, Diamond Head, reached into the southern sea. Off to the west was the flat, estuarine waterway called Pearl Harbor, where the men in the coffins died almost 75 years ago.

Silently, the detail draped each coffin with a fitted American flag, saluted and placed the coffins into panel trucks. An honor platoon, the five hard-hatted cemetery workers (all veterans) and a sprinkling of other military personnel held their salutes until the trucks were out of sight.

"We're not 'mission complete' until we return them home," Lt. Col. Melinda F. Morgan, a director of public affairs for the [Defense P.O.W./M.I.A. Accounting Agency](#), said of the remains of 388 sailors who died aboard the battleship Oklahoma during the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.



Notes in Ray Emory's home office in Kahala, Hawaii. A quest by Mr. Emory, who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, for better grave markers helped strengthen the push to identify the battleship.



American flags were draped over the coffins and placed into trucks.

Eventually, 61 coffins from 45 grave sites will be dug up, Colonel Morgan said, and taken to laboratories that over the next five years will use DNA and dental records to identify the remains, the names of which have long been engraved on a [memorial near Pearl Harbor](#).

The process of searching for and identifying troops missing from World War II has been going on since the fighting ended 70 years ago, but the latest efforts have taken on a sense of urgency as time passes and the number of men and women who served who are still alive dwindles. The Oklahoma identifications are also a tribute to the tenacity of a Pearl Harbor survivor.

"There are unknowns around the world," said James Horton, director of the national cemetery in Honolulu, where 2,760 unidentified troops are buried, 1,061 from Pearl Harbor. "What makes identification very difficult is the severity of what happened, which may have made things messy, and how much more fighting there's going on in those areas."

"The reason they went for the Oklahoma unknowns is there is a known set of them, a fairly finite set," he said.

Of the eight battleships hit by torpedoes and bombs that Sunday in 1941, only the Oklahoma and the [battleship Arizona](#) were damaged beyond repair. The Arizona — where almost half of the more than 2,500 people killed in the attack died — rests below a memorial at Pearl Harbor. [The Oklahoma](#), which was hit by nine torpedoes and capsized, was brought up two years later; the time it spent underwater made the job of identifying the victims more difficult.

The bodies recovered from the Oklahoma were buried throughout Oahu and later transferred to the Punchbowl in 1949 after the cemetery was dedicated. Some of the remains ended up in separate coffins. "In World War I and World War II, there were decisions made, partly because of the number of casualties, to inter those veterans as they fell," Mr. Horton said.

The push to identify the Oklahoma unknowns began modestly as a quest by a Pearl Harbor survivor, [Ray Emory](#), for better grave markers.

When Mr. Emory, 94, who manned a machine gun on the port side of the light cruiser Honolulu during the attack, visited the Punchbowl in 1990, a cemetery worker could not tell him where to find the sailors from the Oklahoma.

That began a quest for headstones that would distinguish Pearl Harbor unknowns from those who died in other wars or other battles. Mr. Emory then wondered if he could somehow single out the name and grave for one Oklahoma victim.



There are limitations. A grave site containing commingled remains may be dug up, the announcement said, only if it is likely that evidence can determine identities for 60 percent of the remains. A grave containing a single unknown may be disinterred only if there is a 50 percent likelihood that the remains can be identified.

For some families, the long wait may soon be over. Thomas Gray of Guilford, Conn., hopes to bury his second cousin, Edwin Hopkins, in a family plot in Keene, N.H., next spring.

"It was like an open wound," Mr. Gray said of the time before Mr. Hopkins was identified earlier this year.

Mr. Hopkins, a 19-year-old fireman third class from Swanzey, N.H., was initially buried in Halawa Cemetery in Hawaii, and then reburied at the Punchbowl in 1949. He had enlisted a year before the attack; his brother, Frank, was already in the Navy, and he had hoped to serve with him, Mr. Gray said. (Family serving together was not uncommon; 23 sets of brothers, for example, [died on the Arizona](#).)

Mr. Hopkins's mother, Alice, who died in 1987, always believed her son would return home, Mr. Gray said, and in 1943 she had Edwin's name engraved on a headstone in the family plot.

Mrs. Hopkins never talked about her son, Mr. Gray said, and "my father would just say he was a nice boy."

Kenneth Schultz, whose uncle, Kenneth Lyle Jayne, also died on the Oklahoma, recalls similarly painful memories.

"For all my life, I've wondered what he's like. My mother talked about him all the time when we were kids," Mr. Schultz, of East Patchogue, N.Y., said. "She used to tell me I was a lot like him, that I'm left-handed like him. She'd say, 'I wish you could've met him.' "



Going home: a reflection on “rotation points”

When our soldiers, sailors and airmen deployed to recent conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and even Vietnam, they knew how long they were expected to be in harm's way before coming home. Many also have had firm enlistment release dates. This contrasts dramatically with the World War II experience, when the 12 million Americans who wore the uniform had no such assurances. They were in “for the duration” – or, as expressed by those in the Pacific, “The road home leads through Tokyo.”



As early as 1942, the Army Air Forces recognized that extended combat flying took a severe toll on morale, as well as the physical and mental health of aircrew. Numerous systems were devised to establish eligibility for leave, or rotation back to the United States for recuperation, with formulas to calculate “rotation points” based on flight hours, number of missions or sorties and months in the combat theater. For the ground crews who maintained the aircraft and provides base security, there was no such rotation program; they were truly “in for the duration,” and many served three or more years away from home.

Sgt Anthony J. Marchione, a gunner/photographer's assistant in a B-24/F-7 squadron based on Okinawa, reportedly was thinking of his rotation points when he volunteered to fly an extra mission with another squadron, the 386th. His aircraft was attacked over Tokyo by more than 10 Japanese fighters. After treating the wounds of another gunner, Sgt Marchione was hit in the chest, and died of his wounds. The date was August 18, 1945 – three days after the Japanese surrender was announced, and 15 days before VJ Day, when formal surrender documents were signed aboard the USS Missouri. Tony Marchione, age 20 from Pottstown, Pennsylvania, became the last American killed in combat in the Pacific War.

We owe much to “the Greatest Generation.” If you have not made September 16-20 plans for New Orleans—consider a last-minute registration, to visit with our vets and enjoy the special program at the World War II Museum. Or, join the Skype Call to see some of the activities from the comfort of home. We will try to hold a place for you – but don't wait too much longer!

John

John Poggi
President,
307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association



and The Newsletter / Video Archive

This News Bears Repeating.



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.

Click [HERE](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Long-Rangers-WWII-Heroes-of-the-Pacific/1400775130222179?ref=hl) 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.](#)



Are You Flying in?

Be sure to arrange your transfer to the Drury Hotel "OnLine" for a group discount.



Airport Shuttle: Shuttle service is available from the airport to the hotels in the CBD for \$20.00 (per person, one-way) or \$38.00 (per person, round-trip). Three bags are allowed per person. Call 1-866-596-2699 FREE or (504) 522-3500 for more details or to make a reservation. Advance reservations are required 48 hours prior to travel for all ADA accessible transfers.

But wait! Now there is a 307th BG "Group Discount" on Airport transfers.

See the next page for a brief decription of our group discount plan and a link to our own Online Reservation site, set up, just for us!

A Discounted Airport Transfer for those Flying in to New Orleans!

Note: The discounted dates are extended from Sept - 15 to 21 to allow for members and guests who may arrive early and stay an extra day.

There are only two simple rules that apply:

- In order to be able to book travel online you must book at least 48 hours prior to your flight arrival time.
- Our group has been set up to [book our reservations online, or the discount will not apply.](#)

Just Click on the **[LINK]** below to open and/or
save the online Site:



Welcome to The 2015 Family Reunion
of the 307th Bombardment Group Association
We are the Children of Heroes, We are the Family
September 15 - 21, 2015
Drury Inn New Orleans

Discounted Round Trip Airport Transportation \$35 per person

One Way \$20 per person
provided by *Airport Shuttle*

Official Conference discounted airport/hotel shared ride shuttle reservations
must be made on this website at least 24 hours prior to your flight arrival time

To change a reservation made online, please call ☎ 866-596-2699 **FREE**

[LINK]

<http://tiny.cc/2acj2x>