



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

## September, 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**



# 307th Bomb Group Association

## It just keeps getting better and better!

Here's the round-up on Nashville. More laughs than we can count. More smiles than we can wish for and some really great entertainment.



We have had five successful reunion trips in a row that have taken us over the top. Baltimore, Indianapolis, Santa Fe, New Orleans and our most recent trip to Nashville, and it just keeps getting better!

This Re-Cap Newsletter is intended for all eyes! It contains news, updates, a few surprises and an announcement of next year's 307th Bomb Wing gathering to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the 307th Bomb Wing.

One of the many highlights of the Nashville trip, among so many outstanding memories was the "remote" participation and attendance by nearly a dozen members, including Col. Ed Jurkins, 100 yr-old Bill Grisaitis, Bob Robinson and a few more familiar faces. Don't miss it on Page 9.

*Don Calarco*

## Some new arrivals in the PX and Memorabilia Room



Ann Williams-Warner was the first to enter the Memorabilia Room on Wednesday afternoon.

She brought a stack of her newly published book, *The Rodney Letters*! They were a big hit. Ann autographed copies and shared some of her stories.

We are all so very proud of Ann for her perseverance in accomplishing her most recent dream of publishing her touching and personal collection of letters sent home from the war!

The *Rodney Letters* will take a position in the 307th PX shortly. For those who missed the Nashville reunion, you will be able to purchase an autographed copy of Ann's book at a discount, while supplies last.



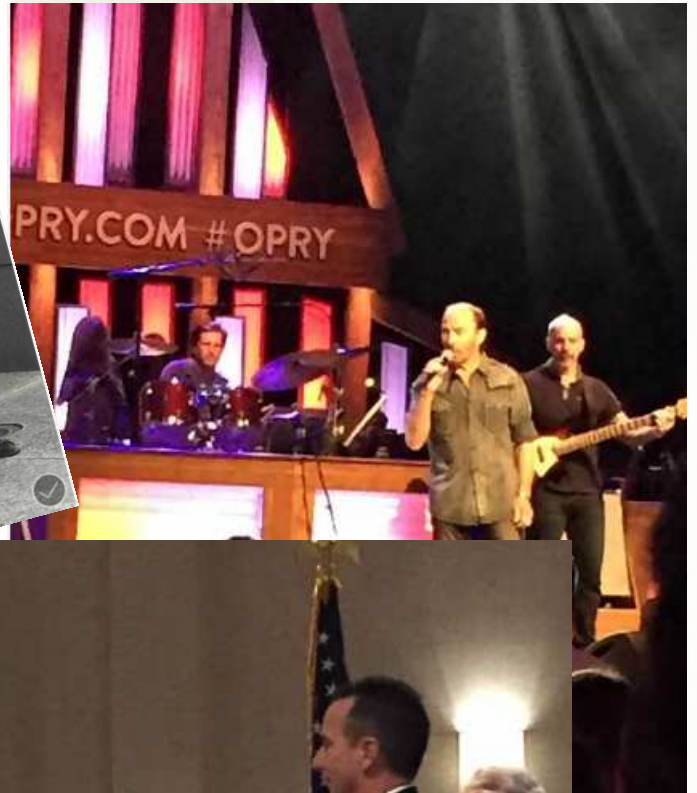
**The Rodney Letters**  
**Love and sacrifice in**  
**World War II**

**Will soon be available in the 307<sup>th</sup> BG PX!**



# A few choice photos from Nashville!

Compliments of Joan Welsh





**Jim McCabe, seems to be standing in the right place at the right time, more than usual.**

**This time he not only surprised a spontaneous guest, he blew him away!**

It all started when Jim Walsh received a message from the front desk at the hotel, that a caller was looking for information about the 307th BG Reunion.

Jim took the call from Steve Bush, who explained that he was in town on business and leaving the next day. Steve told Jim that his dad, who lives in Kansas City, was a tail gunner with the 307th, but he didn't know much about his father's time in the Army Air Corps.

Of course, Jim Walsh would not pass up on a chance to show off our illustrious historian, so he invited him to come and spend some time with us. And he sure did! In fact, he stayed all day with us and closed the after-hours hospitality room after taking photos with each of the veterans.



Jim Walsh introduced Steve to Jim McCabe when he first arrived. Mr. McCabe took some information about his dad and asked Steve to give him some time to do some checking. Steve spent his time mingling with members and listening to some great stories from the Veterans.

In less than a half-hour, Jim signaled to Steve to come to his table, where he displayed the 1st combat Mission Report pertaining to his father and crew that Steve had ever seen, along with other details about his dad that Steve never dreamed existed. Needless to say, Steve Bush was hooked. He had to return home Saturday morning, but he didn't leave before spending some quality time with all the Veterans, up in the Hospitality Room and getting the link to the Remote Attendance site for Saturday night. Steve and his wife, spent the night with us on Saturday from the comfort of his home in California.

"Steve, it was a pleasure meeting you and a thrill finding some of the materials and treasures from our archives about your dad. We are glad to have you as a member and we look forward to seeing you again soon. We can do some more digging and I'm sure we'll come up with more interesting accounts of your dad's time during the war. We hope to see you again soon."

Respectfully

*Jim*

Jim McCabe  
307th BG Historian





## One more very memorable item from Jim McCabe!

On Saturday, August 13, 2016, at 11:30 pm, thirty minutes prior to VJ Day, I received the following communication from the National Secretary of Defense for the Republic of the Philippines.

I had the thrill and pleasure of reading this incredible message to the entirety of our veteran group who were still going strong in our after-hours hospitality room, following the Reunion banquet.

I suggest that any readers consider printing the next page and having it framed for your beloved 307th BG, 307th BW or 13th AF veteran.

*Jim*

Jim McCabe, Historian

(See next page)







**Republika ng Pilipinas**  
 Republic of the Philippines  
**Bagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa**  
 Department of National Defense

## MESSAGE

**71st VJ Day Anniversary  
 &  
 Annual Reunion of the  
 307th Bombardment Group(H),  
 13th Air Force, US Army Air Corps  
 Nashville, Tennessee, USA  
 August 10 – 14, 2016**



*On behalf of the Filipino nation and the Filipino Veterans Community, I congratulate the veterans of the 307th Bombardment Group (H) Association of the 13th Air Force of the United States Army Air Corps as it celebrates its Annual Reunion and the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day!*

*This occasion is made doubly meaningful by the presence of your brother's-in-arms, children, grand-children, great grand-children, friends and loved ones.*

*Having served in the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC for 14 years mostly as the Veterans Attaché dealing with the issues of Filipino WW2 veterans, I am familiar with the exploits of the GIs in the Philippines including the "Long Rangers". I also attended many reunions of the US WW2 veterans who served in the Philippines.*

*Consisting of the 370th, 371st, 372nd, and 424th Squadrons, the Long Rangers completed 625 Missions in the Pacific Theater, participated in 11 campaigns and received two Distinguished Unit Citations – achievements that many Americans and Filipinos today do not know. But the story of 307th Bombardment Group in the Pacific Theater is not complete without mention of the participation of the Filipinos who rescued many of the bomber crews, tended to their medical needs and assisted them in evading Japanese capture at great perils to their lives. It is unfortunate that many who went down with their planes remain unaccounted to this day. Our hearts go to their relatives who continue to hope that they will be found. The Philippine government fully supports the efforts to locate them.*

*This year, 71 years after the War in the Pacific ended, the brotherhood and camaraderie of American and Filipino defenders remain strong, and the alliance of both nations remains iron-clad, currently jointly fighting modern wars: against terrorism, pandemic diseases, disasters and calamities and the adverse effects of climate change, among others. The US-Philippine relations forged under adversity continue to this day.*

*Again, congratulations on your reunion and may the blessings of the Almighty be with you all. Mabuhay!*

**Delfin N. Lorenzana**  
 Secretary of National Defense

# A Well Deserved Recognition



During the Long Rangers Show, the boys stood to receive two special recognition Challenge Coins presented by Col. Denis A. Heinz - Commanding Officer, 489th Bomb Group - Dyess AFB and Command Chief - MSgt Shelley R. Cohen, Senior Non-Com of the 307th BW.



John Wright Salutes Col. Heinz after receiving his challenge coins as Ben Waldo awaits his recognition.

Col. Heinz gives a proud salute to Ben Waldo as Command Chief Cohen prepares her last presentation.



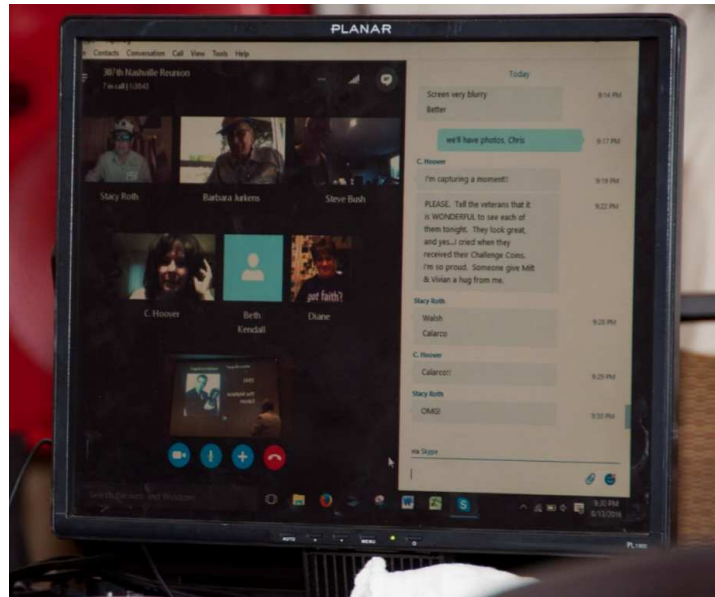
Dale Stickrath is humbled by the kind words of Command Chief - MSgt Shelley R. Cohen, as she presents the challenge coin from Barksdale Air Force Base.





# Long Remote Access

The Long Remote Access Project has taken another leap forward. Since our first failed attempt in Santa Fe, and a technical difficulty in New Orleans, we finally broke the ice and the 307th BG Long Remote Chat application was launched successfully in Nashville. A few more bugs to swat and we'll have the first-ever Remote Access platform for use by all members.



A computer Monitor sat on the front table, giving all the remote guests a view of the stage, the viewing screen and the crowd. Members casually walked up for a brief chat with the guests. It was great to see the participation by so many! There will be more news about this exciting feature soon!

Our very special thanks to Col. Ed Jurkens, Bob Robinson, Bill Grisaitis and Steve Bush for joining the Saturday Night - Long Rangers Show via the Long Remote Access platform. And, of course, we have to honor the brave test pilots who volunteered to be the first women to traverse the Long Remote.

Beth Kendall (Santa Fe, NM) Diane Calarco-Grochowski (Chicago, IL)  
Christine Hoover (Mackay, ID) and the incomparable Stacy Roth (On the Hoof)



## A FEW SINCERE WORDS FROM CAPTAIN JACK PALMER

Pilot—424th Bombardment Squadron

Hello Folks,

I know I am repeating myself, but I'm so very proud to be part of this organization. The events, celebrations, the dedication from sincere volunteers and the quality time spent with the members and families of the 307th BG have surely reached a new high for me. Great comments of praise were heard from all the veterans who attended Nashville.

On Saturday night, not long after Debbie Drake and I read the Missing Man recital, I found myself a bit overcome by the display that was just a few feet from my table. I recalled the incredible size of the 307th BG

Association of the past. At one time we had over 600 members. So many of them are gone. Friends, good friends, great friends, war buddies and acquaintances who treated me like family. Not too long ago, we scheduled one reunion every two years. The change to the 1 year schedule was an excellent way to keep us closer.

But let's face it, we are not getting any younger. 4 nights a year is just not enough face time, especially when time is such a valuable commodity. I want to urge all the current veteran members, and their families, whether you are able and willing to attend the reunions or not... Do not miss the opportunity to enroll in the 307th BG Video Chat Room, which was such a great success in Nashville.

Many of us spend a whole year, saving, planning and preparing for our annual reunion. But during the waiting period, we tend to feel so out of touch from everyone else. When Don Calarco and I first tested this video call system over a year ago, I didn't know what to expect. Once we finally got my computer configured, I was shocked at the clarity of the picture and the sound, and even more surprised to hear that it was FREE! Welcome to the future. Let's take advantage of it.

We will be forming a Chat Group and we'll produce a schedule. Spend an hour or just a few minutes. There's no need to wait. Watch for the news about the new Chat Schedule.

See you soon,

*Jack*

Jack Palmer



# The Great Photo Gallery Round-Up



Come on gang! We really need your photos.

Baltimore—Indianapolis—Santa Fe—New Orleans And Nashville

**This is just so easy to do...Two Steps!**

1. Choose a FREE online Photo Album service from the list below:

[https://www.google.com/search?](https://www.google.com/search?q=free+photo+album+maker+online&oq=free+photo+album+online&ags=chrome.3.69i57j0l3.34765j0j4&sourceid=chrome-mobile&ie=UTF-8)

[q=free+photo+album+maker+online&oq=free+photo+album+online&ags=chrome.3.69i57j0l3.34765j0j4&sourceid=chrome-mobile&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=free+photo+album+maker+online&oq=free+photo+album+online&ags=chrome.3.69i57j0l3.34765j0j4&sourceid=chrome-mobile&ie=UTF-8)

2. Batch up your photos and create one (1) album for each reunion,  
then just send the link to [member.services@307bg.net](mailto:member.services@307bg.net)

Here's one that Joan Welsh created on ShutterFly, as a sample.

[https://www.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?](https://www.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=0AatmzFm0csW7r4&emid=shareprintviewer&linkid=link)  
[sid=0AatmzFm0csW7r4&emid=shareprintviewer&linkid=link](https://www.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=0AatmzFm0csW7r4&emid=shareprintviewer&linkid=link)

And here's one created by Betty Kreder on Cincopia for Baltimore:

<http://www.cincopa.com/cmp/start.aspx?fid=11524231!25bdfbaa-bc56-4242-a77b-5d53f55faf4b!imhD3Gz2fHmFG-zebBMSwD&ipp=100>



# A Profile: History on the Hoof!

## Surrounded by Talent –Did You know?

They are Authors, Poets, Artists, Designers, Musicians, Songwriters, and Thespians!  
We have them all in our midst.

Some of the most unexpected individuals possess talents that seem to come so naturally to them. Standing up to perform in front of an audience comes so easily for some and can be a terrifying experience for others, but if you put on a bright red nose and a big smile, the stage fright seems to go away! Well, it works for me!

**One such individual is Stacy Flora Roth....**  
**Our very own Rosie the Riveter!**

Aside from being a dedicated supporter and member of the 307th BG Association, *Stacy F. Roth* is an interpreter, museum educator, historian, and information specialist who has performed and presented for museums, libraries, schools, civic organizations, and festivals throughout the Delaware Valley. Stacy is a popular speaker with the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and holds a BA in History from Kean College of NJ, an MA in American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania, and an



MLS from Rutgers. Stacy is also the author of *Past Into Present: Effective Techniques for First-Person Historical Interpretation*, University of North Carolina Press, 1998. She loves to create intimate programs that combine storytelling, music, and period artifacts.

Follow Stacy's Twitter tweets on the topic of Living History at [@PastIntoPresent](https://twitter.com/PastIntoPresent).



Stacy is a great enthusiast for New Jersey history and living history events in the State.

Stacy was recently interviewed by gmnews.com about her life as a historical interpreter and re-enactor. An article incorporating the interview was published in a number of central New Jersey newspapers (including the Sentinel of Edison) on June 12. Follow this link to see it! [http://em.gmnews.com/news/2013-06-12/Front\\_Page/History\\_envelops\\_professional\\_reenactor.html](http://em.gmnews.com/news/2013-06-12/Front_Page/History_envelops_professional_reenactor.html)

And now, you can follow [History on the Hoof on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/historyonthehoof) at [www.facebook.com/historyonthehoof](https://www.facebook.com/historyonthehoof).

Stacy, We applaud you! Break a leg. No, wait, don't do that!

## HOW MANY HIGH-TECH SPECIALISTS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHT-BULB?



Just a peek backstage, moments before the guests entered the banquet. Without the help from the McCabe family talent and Jim Walsh, we would have had a blank screen to laugh at all night!

We'd like to recognize Michael and Cara McCabe, the very talented children of Historian Jim McCabe and the grandchildren of Navigator Mike McCabe. Proving once again, how important it is to get your youngsters involved in the 307th BG Association as early as possible ....You never know, we may need their help!





# The PX

## A Note from Lisa Kreder

Hi, it's Lisa.

If you haven't browsed the PX lately, you have to stop by and visit the [Book] section. The Rodney Letters are now available. Get yours while supplies last!

On another note, in an effort to economize and fine tune our deliver process, we have moved the PX to Nashville, where shipping in and out will be more economical and less stressful.

Jim Walsh, the ultimate volunteer and one of the most attentive members of the management core of the association will be taking over as manager of the PX, effective September 01, 2016.

Have you written a book? Or maybe you have a collection of poetry or paintings that you wish to share. Let us know and we'll get your work set up in the PX Store. God knows if Don Calarco can publish a book, just about anyone can.

The PX team has been working hard to bring you exciting new items, and I just know you'll like the new look.

Stop by soon! It was a pleasure and an honor to serve you!

[Click Here NOW](http://px.store.307bg.net/) <http://px.store.307bg.net/>

*Lisa Kreder*

Membership

Books

eBooks

Pins

Patches

Duplicate Ribbons and Awards

Challenge Coins

T-Shirts

Jackets / Vests

Windbreakers

Caps / Hats

Outerwear

Build a Shirt

License Plate Frames

DVD - CD

Donations and Memorials

Commemorative Display Collection

Embroider Anything

1Million Specialty items



## The changing of the guard, and continuing the tradition

Dear members, family and friends of the 307th BG Association,

As the most recent past president of the 307th Bombardment Group (Heavy) Association, I would like to share a few thoughts on the future of our group.



At our reunion banquet in Nashville on August 13, it was my honor and privilege to announce the new officers who will guide our Association for the 2016-2018 term. The nominating committee had done an excellent job, and we had two qualified candidates for every position. For those who attended the business meeting, it was a remarkable – and for me, very gratifying – election. After a tie vote, one highly qualified candidate announced that he would defer to the other candidate; a similar deferment decided a second election, and all officers were elected by voice vote.

If only our national elections could be conducted with such grace and civility!

Our new leadership team consists of Laurie Kendall, president; Debbie Drake, vice president; Richard Welsh, secretary; and Greta Walsh, treasurer. And, of equal importance, the Association will continue to benefit from the experience and ongoing contributions of Past Presidents Don Calarco and Jim Walsh, Historian Jim McCabe and Parliamentarian Jack Palmer. With this combination of vision, dedication and hard work, we are in good hands!



Laurie Kendall and I shared a few chuckles as I passed the "Bell" which signifies the changing of the guard.

Continuing the tradition: celebrating our 75th anniversary in Shreveport In recent years we have forged closer bonds with the current 307th Bomb Wing, based at Barksdale AFB. In 2017 the 307th will host a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Group; our World War II veterans attending the Nashville meeting unanimously favored making this gathering in Shreveport an official reunion of our Association.

See you in Shreveport, March 29-April 2!

*John*

John Poggi  
Past President

# Meet the Newly Elected Officers of the 307th BG Association

## The New Guard

President  
Laurie Kendall



Vice President  
Debbie Drake



Treasurer  
Greta Walsh



Secretary  
Richard Welsh



## A Letter from the President:

It is an honor to address you as the President of this remarkable organization, which meant much to my father, and continues to be important to my mother, sisters and me. I would also like to recognize and thank the out-going board members for their dedication over the last two years, or more. Many thanks to John Poggi, Christine Hoover and Jim Walsh for their tireless efforts on behalf of the 307<sup>th</sup>, and their continued commitment to assist the new board and the membership as we continue to evolve as an organization.



For those of you who were able, we enjoyed another wonderful reunion in Nashville last month. We visited the WWII memorial at the Bicentennial Capital Mall State Park, made a trip to the Grand Ole Opry, and reveled in a fantastic Saturday evening banquet and program featuring “then” (i.e. WWII) and “now” photos of some of our veterans, remote participation in the banquet by members who were unable to attend in person, and an amazing presentation by our outstanding historian (Jim McCabe) about the history and the future of the 307<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group. Wow!

We also had our annual business meeting. We are now a 501(c)(3) organization, and are enjoying a healthier bank account than in the last several years. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we can accept tax deductible donations, but we also need to develop a focus on charitable purposes. The board will be discussing plans to expand our charitable activities which also honor the history and legacy of the 307<sup>th</sup> veterans. Some ideas we have discussed include a scholarship for offspring of 307<sup>th</sup> veterans, and putting even more educational information about the 307<sup>th</sup> on our website. Stay tuned!

Significantly, the membership voted to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the creation of the 307<sup>th</sup> bombardment group in Shreveport, LA with the 307<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing as our reunion activity for 2017. We hope you will join us for this wonderful event scheduled for March 30-April 2, 2017 (Don – please correct the dates if necessary). For additional information about that meeting, check out the links in this newsletter (above), and watch for more information in future newsletters. In Shreveport, the board and reunion committee will present information for future reunion locations for a vote by the membership.

Lastly, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge our distinguished guests from the 307<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing to the banquet and Saturday evening program in Nashville. Many thanks to Colonel Robert Burgess, CO of 307<sup>th</sup> operations Group, Col. Dennis Heinz, CO 489<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group at Dyess AFB, LTC Kenneth Wyzywany, 307<sup>th</sup> BW Chief of Navigator Training, Command Chief MSgt Shelley Cohen, and MSgt. Laura Siebert, Public Affairs Office 93<sup>rd</sup> BW for their presence and participation in our festivities.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you as we continue to develop our organization.

Very truly yours,

*Laurie*

Laurie Kendall



## A Letter from our Vice President:

Hi Everyone,

My name is Deborah Drake but I go by Debbie. I have been given the honor of being elected to be your Vice President of the 307 th Bombardment Group. This group has come to mean the world, not only myself but also to my entire family. If you have ever met my Dad, Dale Stickrath Sr, I'm sure you'll remember him. He is like the energizer bunny and just keeps going, a fact that I am very grateful for.



I want to thank everyone in the outgoing positions on the board. You are all wonderful and I thank you for all the help you continue to give me and this organization. I know I have very big shoes to fill and I hope to do you all proud.

My family has only been to 4 reunions but it feels like I have known everyone all my life. After each reunion I think Wow, it can't get any better but we have had some great ones lately. Each is unique and brings wonderful surprises.

Indianapolis was our first and we were both so excited. I was a bit scared at first to meet these great men. What can you say to a hero? I found them to be a loveable bunch and such great fun to be around. Our next one was Santa Fe and meeting old friends and making new. The planned trips were wonderful and amazing. Our guys were treated like celebrities and made the news. Then last year was in New Orleans. The WWII museum was outstanding and more fun was had by all. And our latest in Nashville was very emotional for me. When our veterans received a standing ovation in the Grand Ole Opry it was all I could do not to cry. It was such a beautiful outpouring of love for them all.

I am greatly looking forward to next reunion in Shreveport, LA. This is going to be a big year for our group as it turns 75! There is going to be a lot of surprises and I'm hoping to see many to faces to include in our large family. For that is what we all are, one very large family, keeping the memory of these great heroes alive for future generations to know what they accomplished. Remember, we need photos to fill up our pages, so please dig through old boxes or as other family members if they have any we may have a copy of.

Check out our Facebook page for info and just to meet some other members.

Thank you,

*Debbie*



Debbie Drake  
Vice President  
The Long Rangers  
307th Bombardment Group (HV) Assoc.  
[debbie.drake@307bg.net](mailto:debbie.drake@307bg.net)



## **Announcing the 75th Anniversary Reunion of the 307th Bomb Wing**

**Shreveport, LA March 29 to April 02, 2017**

**Details to follow in our next newsletter.**

**Save these dates  
this is also our  
2017 Reunion event**



## and The Newsletter / Video Archive

**Come LIKE US on Facebook! Post photos! Ask Questions!  
Share some stories! Ask the Historian!**



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](#) 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>

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.](#)

