



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

[Shop Our Post Exchange](#)

Welcome back to our Friends and Family Members!



How we Started

The 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association, Inc., The Long Rangers grew out of the initial meeting of former World War II members who got together in the spirit of fellowship and camaraderie in Reno, Nevada on September 11-12, 1972. Our goal and hope was for continued growth and expanded interest in the Nation's finest heroes.

The members attending the initial meeting were: Carl Whitesell, Dan Cauffiel, George Jaffe, Ed Jurkens, M. P. Nelson, Arthur Downs, and C. Scott.

Our organization has grown and we have expanded to include the Children of the 307th and their families. Our hope is to insure that future generations never forget the sacrifices that these men made for them and our country. Every two years we hold a reunion in a different part of the country and have a great time reminiscing and catching up with old and new friends.

WE ARE THE FAMILY!! WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF HEROS



Reunion Update

The 307th is on the move to San Diego

Reunion 2018

**October 12th-16th, 2018
San Diego, CA
Welcome to Holiday Inn
Bayside, San Diego CA**

Holiday Inn San Diego Bay side San Diego California

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[BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW!!!!](#)

It's finally here. We have nailed down the reunion information. See the website for all the information or click the link below to go directly to the registration form.

[Reunion Signup Form](#)

San Diego 2018 Reunion

Friday, October 12 (arrival) to Tuesday, October 16, 2018 (departure)

Friday, October 12 Arrival and Registration – meet old friends, and make new ones!

Saturday, October 13 Group bus trip to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar---307th Bomb Wing B-52 Aircraft display and lunch at the Non-Commissioned Officers Club....Free Time at Balboa Park or other San Diego attractions.

Sunday, October 14 Members meeting at 9:00 a.m. ... free time to visit San Diego attractions ... Group Photo and our Gala Reunion Banquet!

AND

A Silent Auction:

The night of the banquet bring more than your appetite. There is going to be a silent auction where the highest bidder wins the prize. From WWII items to a Coach bag for the ladies, and unique handcrafted items. All money is donated to the 307th Bombardment Group.

Monday, October 15 Special group meet and greet on USS Midway and docent tour ... Lunch at Seaport village (on your own) ... (OPTIONAL) Sea World for the Orca Encounter!

Tuesday, October 16 Departure – hugs and goodbyes – or, enjoy more of San Diego!

Please complete the 2018 Reunion registration soon – no later than September 1

Free airport transfers! Senior discount on meals!

Contact- Holiday Inn Bayside, San Diego before September 21 for hotel reservations!

(800) 662-8899 or (619) 224-3621; or online at Holiday Inn Bayside Registration

Be sure to mention the 307th BG and

your group number, T07, for special discount rates!

Here is the link to the hotel.

[BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW!!!!](#)



Letter from the President

Letter from the President

Hello everyone,

I hope with all the wildfires and heat waves that everyone is staying cool and safe.

We are getting closer to enjoying San Diego and my family is looking forward to meeting old and new friends. San Diego is a wonderful place full of fun things to do, so if you are able, stay an extra day or two and check it out.

This is an election of officers year and we will be sending out bios on the prospective candidates. You have a choice of voting at the members meeting during the reunion or sending in your proxy vote to either the secretary or the nomination committee's chairperson. More will come in a later newsletter.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the cities that have approached us about holding our next year's reunion in their town. Please check them out and vote by either proxy or at the members meeting in October.

Proxy votes must be in September 30th.

This year I decided the emphasis at the reunion is going to be on memories. Our veteran's memories of not only the war but of the changes that have occurred over the years they have been alive.

The memories we have of loved ones lost during the war and since and how sweet those memories are and live with us always.

The memories of shared adventures & fun times together with family & friends

These are what shape our lives and should never be lost. I ask each of you to get the stories of your life and your families lives recorded. For once they are gone it's too late, and they are lost forever.

I hope to see each and everyone of you at the reunion this year. It should be a fun time for all.

Thank you & God bless,

Debbie Drake

President

The Long Rangers

307th Bombardment Group (HV)

President@307bg.net



A bit of something from our very own John Stiles ...

I don't think I've ever read anything more powerful than this piece.

It was written by Stanislaus Drew and Ted Nugent posted it on his Facebook page - yes, THAT Ted Nugent.

Take a little trip to Valley Forge in January. Hold a musket ball in your fingers and imagine it piercing your flesh and breaking a bone or two. There won't be a doctor or trainer to assist you until after the battle, so just wait your turn. Take your cleats and socks off to get a real experience.

Then, take a knee on the beach in Normandy where man after American man stormed the beach, even as the one in front of him was shot to pieces, the very sea stained with American blood. The only blockers most had were the dead bodies in front of them, riddled with bullets from enemy fire.

Take a knee in the sweat soaked jungles of Vietnam. From Khe Sanh to Saigon, anywhere will do. Americans died in all those jungles. There was no playbook that told them what was next, but they knew what flag they represented. When they came home, they were protested as well, and spit on for reasons only cowards know.

Take another knee in the blood drenched sands of Fallujah in 110 degree heat. Wear your Kevlar helmet and battle dress. Your number won't be printed on it unless your number is up! You'll need to stay hydrated but there won't be anyone to squirt Gatorade into your mouth. You're on your own.

There are a lot of places to take a knee where Americans have given their lives all over the world. When you use the banner under which they fought as a source for your displeasure, you dishonor the memories of those who bled for the very freedoms you have. That's what the red stripes mean. It represents the blood of those who spilled a sea of it defending your liberty.

While you're on your knee, pray for those that came before you, not on a manicured lawn striped and printed with numbers to announce every inch of ground taken, but on nameless hills and bloodied beaches and sweltering forests and bitter cold mountains, every inch marked by an American life lost serving that flag you protest.

No cheerleaders, no announcers, no coaches, no fans, just American men and women, delivering the real fight against those who chose to harm us, blazing a path so you would have the right to "take a knee." You haven't any inkling of what it took to get you where you are, but your "protest" is duly noted. Not only is it disgraceful to a nation of real heroes, it serves the purpose of pointing to your ingratitude for those who chose to defend you under that banner that will still wave long after your jersey is retired.

If you really feel the need to take a knee, come with me to church on Sunday and we'll both kneel before Almighty God. We'll thank Him for preserving this country for as long as He has.

We'll beg forgiveness for our ingratitude for all He has provided us. We'll appeal to Him for understanding and wisdom. We'll pray for liberty and justice for all, because He is the one who provides those things. But there will be no protest. There will only be gratitude for His provision and a plea for His continued grace and mercy on the land of the free and the home of the brave. It goes like this, GOD BLESS AMERICA!

by Stanislaus Drew



HISTORIAN's CORNER



From Our Historian

Jim McCabe

As we approach our 307th BG/307th BW annual reunion with our planned events at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar (MCASM) and the USS Midway aircraft carrier, it seems fitting to revisit our rich history with our brother's in arms. The records pertaining to the cooperation

between the 13th Army Airforce's 307th BG, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marines are difficult to find, understand and fully appreciate. On December 23rd, 1941, The Japanese Maizuru Second Special Naval Landing Force executed a predawn landing on the south shore of U.S. Marine held Wake Island and Wilkes Islands while carriers Soryu and Hiryu launched air strikes against Wilkes, Peale, and Wake Islands in support of their landing force. After almost 12 hours of fighting, all islands had been surrendered. Our relief expedition, U.S. Naval Task Force 14 was recalled. (<http://pacific.valka.cz/forces/tf14.htm>)

A year and one day later, Christmas Eve 1942, the 307th BG avenged this loss with the then longest raid of heavy bombers (twenty-seven B-24, 10-man crews) ever attempted. Our B-24 Bombers left Hawaii and refueled at U.S. Marine held Midway to accomplish this feat, their first combat mission. Back in Hawaii, Admiral Nimitz awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross to two of the seven 307th BG Airmen, Capt. Dana Billings and Capt. Krieg, who earned them. The other 263 307th BG Airmen participating in this strike were awarded Air Medals. You may ask, "Why would our 307th BG, Army Air Corps airmen be decorated by our Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CinCPac)?"-keep reading. The 307th BG would remain closely entwined with the U.S. Navy and Marines for the war's duration.

<http://307bg.net/data/documents/307thWakeHONOLULUPaper.pdf>

Within a few weeks the 307th BG joined the U.S. Navy and Marines at Guadalcanal and began their combat missions before the Island had been fully secured. To understand our joint mission, one must understand that the Southwest Pacific was a U.S. Naval theater; Naval or Marine Corps personnel commanded both the air and ground forces. As we moved, "up the slot", our Navy, Marines and the U.S. Army captured Island after island with 307th BG and other 13th AAF units softening up the Japanese targets. In turn, the 307th BG continued to move with them, always being the most forward deployed BG in the Southwest Pacific theater. So now you know why an Admiral in his dress whites is awarding medals to Army airmen and why you may have no idea where your father or grandfather was stationed. They barely knew themselves, often moving to a new airbase before they had fully unpacked at their present one!

- Hickam Field, 1 Nov 1942
- Guadalcanal, Feb 1943
- New Georgia, 28 Jan 1944
- Los Negros, 29 Apr 1944
- Wadke, 24 Aug 1944
- Morotai, 18 Oct 1944
- Clark Field, Luzon, Sep-Dec 1945

One of the most significant historical facts is that this chain of command remained in place until March 25th, 1944. It was on this date that control of the 307th BG was transferred to General MacArthur and Southwest Pacific Command with the stipulation that the 307th BG was to be utilized to support Admiral Nimitz upon his request. Four days later, the 307th BG would earn its first of two Distinguished Unit Citations for their very successful strike on Truk, the Japanese, "Pearl Harbor". It succeeded the Wake Island combat mission above as the longest ever flown.

Despite having served in relative obscurity due to their attachment to the U.S. Navy, our men enjoyed an unbreakable bond and respect for each other's role. Once taken, these islands and our

airbases were held, saving countless 307th BG Airmen lives. In turn, our combat missions destroyed Japanese ships, airbases, aircraft (355 destroyed in the air, 68 probables and 51 damaged, 170 airplanes destroyed on the ground) supply and ammunition dumps, oil refineries, naval installations, and barracks, etc., returning this same favor to our Navy, Marines and regular Army. Our men have not forgotten the Pacific Ocean rescues by the U.S. Navy YP-237, U. S. Navy Float Squadron Ugi Island, USS Mingo, USS Hutchins, innumerable Navy PT Boats and PBY's. They have not forgotten the combat mission escorts, often unscheduled, by U.S. Navy and Marine fighters including Gregory "Pappy" Boyington and his men all of whom knew the heavy price being paid by our crews who rarely enjoyed any fighter escort.

It is with solemn pride and great anticipation that we look forward to joining the 307th Bomb Wing, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marines at Air Station Miramar soon. This may very well be the last such celebration which will include our beloved 307th BG WWII veterans and these service branches. Trust me, you don't want to miss this!

Jim McCabe, Historian
307th BG Assoc.
www.307bg.net
307thbg@comcast.net

Words from our Matriarch Dottie Kendall



The Shady Lady, a B-24 Consolidated Bomber (heavy) & one of the surviving Long Rangers of the USAAF-13th (Jungle Air Force, Pacific Theater), 307th (H), 372nd Bombardment Squadron, piloted by Captain Tom Harris, navigator 2nd Lieutenant Gerald Burns, radio operator James Kendall, made her last flyby over BR skies this morning even while being attacked from above (note three 20mm cannon tracers). Fortunately, all hits passed cleanly through the "charmed" plane before the top turret gunner destroyed the intruding Japanese Zero. After completing 51 missions, the Shady Lady and her remaining 10-man (2 KIA, 3 W) crew landed safely at Harding Army Air Field for tonight's final mission send-off! Lt. Burns is the last survivor of this incredible lady. Salute.

2019 Reunion Selection list. Take a Look and Let's decide

2019 Reunion Options

The following are locations wanting to have our 2019 Reunion in their city. We need to narrow this down to 3 before the reunion. Voting is open until September 8th. You may send your top 3 choices to President@307bg.net or Secretary@307bg.net.

They are (in alphabetical order):

[Colorado Springs, CO: Offers beautiful scenery along with The National Museum of World War II Aviation, United States Air Force Academy and the Peterson Air & Space Museum. There are many activities, including a railway excursion, that showcase the beautiful Rocky Mountains.](#)

[Dayton, OH: Offers the National Aviation Hall of Fame, United States Air Force Museum and the Wright Brother Memorial. There's the Patterson Homestead Museum whom Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is named after. There's many other museums to explore.](#)

[Gettysburg, PA: History was made here. Come explore the civil war battles and museums like the National Civil War Museum, David Wills House or Daniel Lady Farm. Or move ahead in history to Eisenhower National Historic Site of his retreat and farm. How about savoring the food & spirits, the area has wonderful wine, cider, and craft beer specialties to explore as well as wonderful food tours.](#)

[Laughlin, NV: Offers beautiful resorts along the Colorado River. There is the old Route 66 town of Oatman close by as is the great Hoover Dam complex. A short drive away is the majestic Grand Canyon National Park with a Railway ride or the Skywalk overlooking the canyon.](#)

[Milwaukee, WI: From Hammerschlagen \(it involves beer and hammers\), an alleyway transformed into an outdoor mural gallery, cheese pairings, Bast Bell Museum/Dheinsville Settlement - Germantown Historical Society, Historic Pabst Brewery, EAA Aviation Museum, Bay View Printing Co. You'll find it all and more.](#)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Petersburg_Training_Center One of the most impressive is the Florida Holocaust Museum. Another excellent choice - the Armed Forces Military Museum. Other sites of the past, such as: the St. Petersburg Museum of History, Dunedin Historical Museum and Gulf Beaches Historical Museum showcase area history in a comprehensive time capsule.

<http://www.visitfredericksburgtx.com/With the River Walk and the Alamo, there is sure to be fun had by all. Then venture to Fredericksburg, the home of Admiral Nimitz & where housed is the National Museum of the Pacific War with numerous artifacts & interactive exhibitions on the history of WWII.>

[Seattle, WA: Visit the breathtaking Pacific Northwest, home of Seattle's Space Needle, Pike Place Market & one of the largest Museums of Flight in America. Visit the boardwalk with its shops and Aquarium or take a ferry ride to the Peninsula & walk around beautiful Bainbridge Island. There's so much to see and do in the Pacific NW.](#)

[Springfield, IL: Featuring the IL Korean War Memorial, the IL Vietnam Veterans War Memorial, and the WWII IL Veterans Memorial and home to the Militia Historical Society, Illinois State Military Museum, and the Air Combat Museum. Springfield is also the hometown of President Abraham Lincoln.](#)

[Washington, DC: Museums and Memorials galore that offer free admission, including the grand WWII memorial between the Washington Monument & Lincoln Memorial. So many things to see and do in our nations great capital. Don't forget a trip to the White House or Congress to top it off.](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS to the 307th Bomb Group

We would like you to all welcome to the family our new members. These folks have joined us and we hope that they will come to our upcoming reunion in San Diego California.

Joining us in June 2018

Paul Abbate



FINAL FLIGHTS

307th Bombardment Group Association

This new Final Flights page was first started following our 2014 Family Reunion in Santa Fe, NM. Seven of our revered veteran members were in attendance, and while some of our most devoted may not be able to travel, they are always remembered and we are forever grateful for the part they played in making the 307th Bombardment Group Association a successful, family unit.

**The hardest news to share and to receive is
the news of one of our own taking their final**

flight and leaving this world to join their freinds and fellow heroes who have gone before them. This page is dedicated to all our dearly departed.

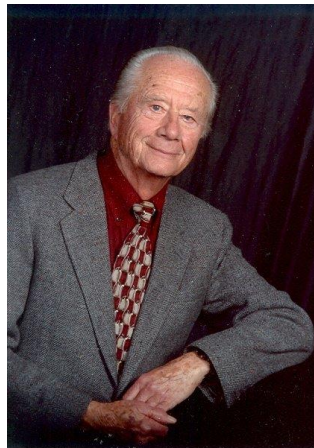


January 12, 2018

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

His first wife Geneice Potee precedes him in death.

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





Our very dear Ann Warner provided us this story. It is a wonderful read....



MY DEEP GRATITUDE TO ANN WILLIAMS WARNER FOR AN UNIMAGINABLE GIFT -- As some of you know, last Friday I received a gift that I (and generations of my family to come) will treasure in a way that far exceeds my ability to describe. You may have read this post (on Sunday) from Ann: "JJ and I had special visitors on Friday, Rodney and Becky Wood. When I announced the publication of The Rodney Letters, Rodney Wood contacted me and shared that he asked his dad why he named him Rodney. He said, "I knew a man named Rodney Williams." Earl Wood was 14 when Rodney Williams was killed in action; Rodney was 25. I wanted Rodney Wood to have something that belonged to Rodney Williams."

I could never have imagined that such a gift would be placed in my hands. I have included numerous photos (below) of our great visit with Ann and JJ. But first, alongside the photo of Rodney Williams, you will see two photos of my daddy that were taken at my grandfather's dairy farm during the war, almost certainly in 1944. You will also see the RODNEY WILLIAMS' ARMY AIRFORCE RING! (Ann and I have discovered that this was not his scout ring, as some had thought it might be.)

THE ARTICLE BY THE BOY ON THE HORSE: I once saw an article that my father wrote for the local newspaper, The Era Leader (Franklinton, LA), in which he urged the people of the town

and parish (county) to plant "war gardens," which (as some of you know) was a way that every family (especially in rural areas) could contribute to the war effort. I wish that I had a copy of that article, but a fire destroyed most of The Era Leader archives from those days. My father and his family were members of Centenary Methodist Church, and my grandfather was the milk distributor for the area. It was through their involvement with the church and the community that my grandparents (and my daddy) would have known the Williams family (who owned The Williams Lumber Company). It was from a story that I heard years ago, and then much more fully from the reading of Ann's wonderful book, that I came to clearly see that Rodney Williams was the kind of man that a teenage Earl Wood would have greatly admired. As I am writing these words, I am thinking of how he (and many other boys in Franklinton) must have felt when the news was received that Rodney Williams, who served as a nose gunner in a B-24 bomber in the South Pacific, had been killed. My daddy and everyone in our small town surely felt the shock of the words "killed in action." The families of Washington Parish were very close to one another. There can be no doubt that many of them felt the deep sorrow that fell upon the heart of young Margie Ann Bickham Williams, and they all thought of Ann.

Six years later, on September 25th, 1950, Earl Wood gave his son the name Rodney. It was not until sixty-six years later, through the reading of Ann's book, The Rodney Letters, that I came to fully understand the honor that has been, and continues to be, mine.

Ann, I give thanks to our Lord for your father John Rodney Williams who gave his life, at such an early age, so that you and I, and many others (such as those who are reading this), could freely pursue those ideals that God has placed in our hearts. Your father's ring will be positioned in a place of honor not only in our home but in the homes of those future family members into whose hands it is entrusted, and it will always be known as THE RODNEY WILLIAMS RING.

Thank you, Ann. Ann WarnerBecky WoodJake WoodJim WoodJohn WoodKelly WoodAmy WoodAshley Page WoodElizabeth WoodMary PageMyles Wood





The Treasurers Corner - Financials as of June 30, 2018



Hello everyone!

Well the second quarter of the year is gone and we are half way through the year! I hope all continues to be well with you and your families as we go into the summer months.

As we continue into 2018, Finances are progressing as well as our Memberships.

So far, we have had \$4153.13 as of June 30, 2018 in the account.

There has been 47 paid memberships in 2018 so far, 3 of which are new memberships!
Thank you to the many folk that have paid their dues and the new members that have joined.

Our Reunion is only a bit over 3 months away and will help to have those membership dues in by then. I can also take them at the reunion as well.

I look forward to seeing all of you in San Diego!

Individual Membership - \$35.00

Couples Membership - \$60.00

Family Membership - \$95.00

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

www.307.bg.net

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

Greta H. Walsh

Treasurer

307th Bombardment Group

2032 Mason Lane

Spring Hill, TN 37174

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at treasurer@307bg.net

Thank you,
G

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

[Renew/Join with your membership](#)

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

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