



368th Fighter Group Association Newsletter



March 2013

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2012 Reunion in Cape May, New Jersey

Members and family of the Group and 368th Association met at the wonderful Grand Hotel, Cape May, New Jersey, for the weekend of Oct. 4-7. The event was hosted by 368th Veteran Gerald Monaghan, his grandson Patrick, and Patrick's wife Kristi. It was the perfect setting, amazing views, interesting outings, a wonderful hotel experience, and a great banquet. Folks couldn't stop talking about the wonderful time they had; "one of the best reunions" was overheard many times.



Field trips included a tour of the Cape May Winery and a trip to the Cape May Lighthouse and surrounding area. Because of the World War II submarine threat off the shore of Cape May and at the mouth of the Delaware Bay, numerous United States Navy facilities were located here to protect American coastal shipping. Cape May Naval facilities significantly helped reduce the number of ships and crew members lost at sea.

Attendees at the Cape May reunion included: Ken and Angela Kik, Kenton and Marcia Baughman, Reta Miletich, Al and Annie Benton, Gerald Monaghan, Karen and Gary Wrey, Patrick and Kristi Monaghan, Skip and Debbie Monaghan, Beth and Ed Houghtaling, Dominick J. Thomas Jr., Isabel Vasquez, Ted Taubert, Helen Humpal, Bill and Ethel Phillips, Cynthia Rheinheimer, Brad Phillips, Judy, Mallory and Emma Phillips, Marcia, Greg, Justin and Jena Hayer, Nadine McLachlan, Gerald Kelly and Roberta (Causbie) Kelly, Erin Kelly Kafetz, Don Brawley and Diane (Causbie) Brawley, Matthew Johnson, Janet Johnson, Susan Grace, Marge Grace, Janet (Grace) Irvine, Jo Ann Grace, Gail Grace and Greg Patterson, Bill Wright, Doug Wright,



Pictured are Al Benton, Gerald Monaghan, Ted Taubert, Bill Wright and Bill Phillips

Suzy (Wright) Raymond, and Tim Grace. Those who joined us for the banquet included: Linda Breitbarth, John and Peggy (McLachlan) Applegate, C.J. Johnson, Craig Johnson, Jack Kramer and Shirley Kramer, Jeff and Doreen Wayland. Allen Lewis attended the reception.

Dave Parrish Receives Silver Star

After 60 years of waiting, David Parrish, whose family owns and operates the Clay Ward Agency and Indian Creek Farm near Paris, Kentucky, received a Silver Star from the United States government for his distinguished service during World War II. U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky) presented the award May 26, 2005. The Silver Star is the third-highest military award designated solely for heroism in combat.

Parrish served as a 368th FG P-47 pilot in the Army Air Force, stationed in the European theater. The Group first escorted bombers from England, participated in D-Day, and then operated from bases in France and Belgium.

The award was presented to Parrish for his actions on Aug. 8, 1944, near Domfront, France, when Parrish, supported by only two other fighters, attacked 25 enemy fighters proceeding toward a formation of friendly bombers. Parrish launched an attack on the fighters with complete disregard for his personal safety and confident of his ability to head his flight. In the engagement he completely dispersed the enemy and personally destroyed two planes.

"We always knew these things about our father, but he wouldn't talk about them," said David Parrish's son Shack. "We knew he was involved in a lot of missions where bravery was involved. We are very proud of him."

During the war, Parrish twice earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medals with 21 Oak Leaf Clusters and numerous other medals from the English, French, and American governments.

Folded Wings

J. Robert "Bing" Causbie, a crew chief with the 397th FS, passed away on Feb. 17, 2012. Bing was one of the small handful of 368th veterans who served with the 56th FG, 326th FG, and the 368th FG. Bing was part of the original 368th cadre that sailed to Europe at the end of 1943. He was the recipient of many medals, including the Presidential Unit Citation. Bing also was awarded the Bronze Star, the nation's fourth highest award, because his pilots flew an incredible 237 missions with no mechanical failures or pilots lost! A regular attendee of the 368th FG reunions, his sweet smile and stories are greatly missed.

Dave Curtis Parrish Jr. passed away on May 2, 2012, in Paris, Kentucky, at age 90. Dave was a P-47 pilot with the 396th FS. He flew missions in the European theater including support of ground troops during the D-Day invasion. Dave was a decorated pilot with a victory credit of 3-0-1. He was nicknamed "Duross" by fellow pilot Jack Robbins. Dave was a lifelong resident of Bourbon County where he was a founding member the Clay Ward Agency and Indian Creek. Dave is survived by his wife of 66 years, Susan Hyde Parrish.

Joe Wych, passed away on June 21, 2012 at the age of 91. The Association was notified by his son Bob Wych, who resides in Sedona, Arizona. Joe was married to his wife Marge for 64 years until she passed away on Sept. 3, 2011. Joe was an electrical mechanic with the 397th FS.

Ed Frank, a cryptographer with the 368th headquarters staff, passed away on December 2, 2012. Ed was part of the original 368th FG cadre that sailed to Europe on the S.S. Argentina on December 28, 1943. He was part of a small group of men whose job was to code break the steady stream of encrypted messages sent by higher headquarters. Ed was on duty early in the morning of May 7, 1945. It was Ed who decoded the secret message sent for the group commander that the war was over. Thus, he was the first in the 368th to know VE Day had finally arrived! Among many other medals earned, Ed was a recipient of the Presidential Unit Citation. Ed and his wife Barbara were regular attendees of 368th reunions through the years.

Joseph J. Hanson folded his wings on March 10, 2013. Staff Sgt. Hanson was an original cadre member of the 395th Fighter Squadron. He was a highly decorated crew chief for Panzer Duster pilots, earning the Bronze Star due to his mechanical excellence in preparing his P-47s for combat. Sgt. Hanson, who survived German sniper fire on Omaha Beach during D-Day plus 2, was injured on Jan. 6, 1945 when a German mine exploded at Metz. After 64 years and persistence by his family, Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy recently presented Hanson with the Purple Heart, which he earned on January 6, 1944.

Condolences

The families and friends of the 368th FG Association extend their deepest condolences to the family and friends of Peggy (McLachlin) Applegate, who passed away on Dec. 27, 2012. Many members of the 368th FG Association met her for the first time in Cape May, which she attended with her husband John Applegate, son Craig Johnson and grandson C.J. Peggy's father Joe McLachlin was a pilot with the 396th FS.

2013 Reunion in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Oct 3-6

Ken and Angela Kik will host the 2013 reunion in Kalamazoo, Michigan at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, (888) 201-1718, in Kalamazoo. The banquet will be held at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo.

The hotel is nice and reasonably priced; rooms will be about \$130.00/night. It is in downtown Kalamazoo, and transfer from the Airport is free. There is shopping and plenty of restaurants on sight and around the hotel. The hospitality suite will be perfect for our group and the plan is to focus on plenty of time to visit. The excursion will be the banquet and tour of the Air Zoo.

Tentative schedule: Thursday Oct 3rd - Arrival/hospitality suite.

Friday Oct 4th - Casual buffet dinner (part of reunion package).

Saturday Oct 5th - Air Zoo and Banquet at the Air Zoo.

Sunday Oct 6th - Breakfast

The Air Zoo will be a great place for the banquet, and we will have the museum to ourselves for about four hours. Details are being worked out, but this will be quite an event for us. The Air Zoo is a beautiful museum affiliated with the Smithsonian. We will have access to the entire museum, which includes a magnificent P-47, a world-class NASA space collection, and numerous war birds, mostly in flying condition.

Due to the many arrangements that must be made, please let us know if you plan to attend so Ken and Angela will have some tentative numbers with which to work and plan. Because Kalamazoo is easy to travel to by air or car, and the hotel is affordable, we hope the cost of attending this reunion will be affordable.

We hope you can attend and look forward to hearing from you.



IN MEMORIAM (Angels Wings) DEDICATED TO THE LADS I FLEW WITH--Jack Robbins
--Written by a Fellow Prisoner of War

There were no tears for those who fly with angel wings
In that high world which lies above
Where the flowery flak doth suddenly blossom
Into flaming fiery rockets, display their splendor
In endless streams of brilliant stars and meteorites
And speeding shells insist that young mortal souls
Cut the binding link and soar across the broad gay from life to immortality.

No eyes weep salty tears for friends who left to join
A formation infinitely higher than man-made wings can fly.
Some stronger impulse seizes their receptive hearts
And teaches them to beat in unison.
'Neath the playful scuffles and curses
Lies a spirit of brotherhood.
Like the Heroes of ancient days-
Demons they are to each other face to face
Yet their dark uplifted brows
Veil swift glances of respectful fire.

But off' they gazed in silence
And marveled at the common gallant deeds,
Wearing a mask of indifference upon their faces to hide their secret thoughts.
Slight are the outward signs that bind fighting men together.
But within-within there is the spirit of love.
Wrought love for a comrade so full and deep-
A life to be laid upon the alter, if need be.
Slight though they are, the outward signs exist
For the cunning observer to judge, on close inquiry.
And flush are cheeks and damp their brows,
The clenched fist and sweaty palm,
The pause that listens,
Lest an intrusive step loose the mood of Fear.

If not mortals, be love
That they should live and fight
Or die together. In truth it should be said
That airmen do not die.
For in the hearts of those who wear
The Silver Wings upon their humble breasts
And invade the crystalline blue with wings of steel,
We still fly close formation
With those who fly on Angels Wings.

368th FG Web Site

Kenneth Kik continues to update our award winning web site. Thanks to Ken's assimilation of information from interested people and historians both here and abroad, it is recognized as one of the best World War II research sites on the web. If you have any information, pictures, or anything you wish to contribute, Ken can be contacted directly through the web site at: www.368thfightergroup.com.

Contact Information

If you have a change of address or know of anyone in the Group who does, please pass any information (and photos, historical and/or reunion photos) you have to the editor, Jo Ann Grace, at 1107 Genoa Ln., Carson City, NV, 89706, email: jo_anngrace@hotmail.com or by phone at 775.721.9314 (cell) or 775.884.3747 (home). If you have any personal stories of your loved ones, or other artifacts you would like to place in the 368th FG archives, contact Tim Grace at 253.988.3400, or email at ahilt7@msn.com. Association Secretary Randolph Goulding can be reached at 770.436.4254 or by email at rgoulding@charter.net.

Introducing New Friends of the 368th FG Association

The 368th FG History has expanded thanks to the efforts of two young historians, Jackie Flannery of Illinois and Alexis Boban, World War II French historian.

Jackie Flannery contacted Tim a few years ago regarding Gradon Mongar, a 395th replacement pilot. Later she became interested in Lt. Robert Brown. She has also become good friends with Russ O'Connell of the 397th. She is trying to help him get a Silver Star and has all the 397th documents on CDs from the microfilm. Jackie has also connected with the family of Jack Robbins, 396th pilot, and is working on sharing his story. Jackie has a Facebook page called "WingsIIFreedom" where she posts photos and stories of the 368th. It is worth checking out and "liking." Her own FB timeline photo is a P-47. Jackie told me she loves the history and men of the 368th. Now that's a friend of ours for sure!

Alex Boban's interest in veterans of WW II began very young. He started collecting gears and equipment that he found in Normandy where his grandparents lived. Most relics he found were German. When his parents later bought a vacation home in Normandy he spent even more time there.

As his interest grew, he began interviewing people who witnessed the battles and started to do some metal detector searches. When he checked out the location of P-47 crash he was able to recover several parts, including the machine gun of the plane. That machine gun serial number and the matching MACR and led him to the pilot's name and story. It was a pilot from the 9th AF, 358th FG, 366th FS. He created a book about this that he sent it to the family and fellow pilots in the US and kept one for himself. Alexis also had a plaque made which was unveiled in 2009 in his honor in the Normandy town along with another plaque honoring the US ground troops that also suffered heavy losses.

Alexis has continued his interest in the men from the 8th and 9th Air Forces in Normandy. He cares about the men who crashed and died, their stories unknown in the communities where some incidents happened. By expanding his research in a wider circle he found other crashes, among them the crash site of Lt. Robert S. Brown. He is still hoping to do something in his memory.

His website (in French) includes information and pictures of the 358th FG pilot:
<http://www.ranes1944.org/SantoGiamalva.html>

At the time of this printing, Alexis has relocated to Littleton, Colorado. Both Jackie and Alexis helped with additions about Joe Marini in our soon to be released third edition of *Second To None*. They each expressed interest in attending our reunion in Kalamazoo this year.



Alexis is pictured above right in front of the memorial he had made for the pilot and the 3rd Armored Division, and at the Brittany American Cemetery in France at the 358th FG pilot's grave.

How to order the Third Edition of *Second to None, History of the 368th Fighter Group*

Both First and Second Editions of *Second to None* are sold out. However, we have finally completed work on the Third Edition! With a slightly new look, this edition includes additional photos, a lot of updated and/or corrected information, and an expanded index that now includes the full photo gallery. Many new names have been added to our index due to this update. Books can be ordered through our website at: www.368thfightergroup.com or send a \$50 check or money order with your order to Gail Grace, 1223 E. Sheena Dr., Phoenix, 85022. This includes shipping. The books are currently being printed so allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Second to None, History of the 368th Fighter Group

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