



95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation

The 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization whose purpose is to educate the public regarding the history of the 95th Bomb Group (H) and its role in the air campaign over central Europe during WWII.

Volume 4 Issue 2

June 2015

www.95thbg.org

"Justice with Victory"



Last Plane Down May 7 1945 – 2015



Notes from the President

As we sit back following Memorial Day 2015 and reflect upon our recent reunion, featuring the touching ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the “Last Plane Down” on May 7th, we once again realize how truly blessed our nation is with the freedom we have today. This freedom is due, in large part, to the willingness of the then-young men of a prior generation to forego every one of their tomorrows for the liberty we are fortunate to enjoy today.

Representing those then-young men at the memorial ceremony were our precious 95th BG veterans Joe Cihon, Bob Fay, Richard Harvey, Ray Hobbs, Keith Murray, Bill Owen, Charlie Riggs, Irv Rothman, Ben Roujansky, John Walter, Herb Wilkov, and Ed Yursky. Each of these veterans would likely tell us that the true heroes are the forever-young men who did not return from their service in WWII.



“No verbal report of a 95th BG Reunion can ever really describe what goes on in the hearts and minds of those who attend. Because what essentially does take place is not found in statistics, numbers of people attending, geographic location, activities, etc. The truly significant effects of a Reunion may be found in

the tears slowly welling in the eyes of those who, after several years, have again met a buddy; a crew member; reviewed old photographs; renewed friendships; talked of old times (good and bad); hugged each other; and smiled or laughed again with others. Another powerful purpose of a Reunion is to remember: to remember not only our personal experiences, but, equally important, also those who were with us, in days gone by, but are no longer here. And amazingly (or perhaps quite normally) the wives seem to fully understand the strong needs of their ‘men’ and what they do during a Reunion.” (from the 95th BG Association Newsletter; Winter 1986/1987, Vol. X, No. 1; Art Frankel, editor)

That pretty well sums up a 95th BG Memorials Foundation reunion. Many of us, legacy folks, have been fortunate to attend these special gatherings

along with our 95th BG veterans since the mid-1990’s. I’d like to add a comment that past President Tom Cozens shared this year, from a quote he photographed: “We (the 95th BG Memorials Foundation members, friends, and families) are the keepers of their stories.” That phrase sums up our legacy obligation: how we can best participate in future reunions, and in the newer social media environment of Facebook, website(s), Twitter, and other appropriate venues.

Please consider making your reservations for this year’s 2015 Horham reunion, scheduled for September 10th through 16th! The experience is beyond once in a lifetime. As many of our Foundation members will attest, once you’ve been to Horham, you know you have a second home and a wonderful new set of friends and family in the UK. The memories you’ll make while you’re there, treading where our 95th BG veterans have trod, will truly touch your heart!

There are many opportunities to be a part of the 95th BG Memorials Foundation “extended family.” I urge our Facebook fans, Twitter viewers, and website users who are not yet members of our Foundation to take the next step and join our 501(c)(3) organization for its nominal annual fee (via our website: <http://95thbg.org>). This financial contribution ensures, as “keepers of their stories,” the legacy of the 95th BG continues into perpetuity, as our Foundation’s charter intends.

Justice – Honor – Victory
Gerald

Gerald Grove
Son of Ronald W. Grove
335th Tail Gunner



www.95thbg.org
Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter

**Haven't Read the
95th Bomb Group Unit History Yet?**

Rob Morris has written a comprehensive and reader-friendly account of the 95th Bomb Group in war and in peace.

A must-read for all lovers of the 95th!

Available at smile.amazon.com



Mission Tucson: Our Giving Journey

Since Janie is on the committee, as soon as Mission Tucson was announced in 2013, we sent in what we considered a generous donation, and felt good about providing some “seed” money to help get the project airborne.



This past winter we revisited the conversation about how we spend our money and what causes we consider in alignment with our values and worthy of our support. We talked about the veterans, and the sacrifices they made when they were in the prime of their lives. We talked about the Foundation and the memorials, and what it will take to keep the history of the 95th relevant for future generations. We talked about Mission Tucson, and how the Memorial Room will be a place where future generations can hear and see the stories of those who gave so much to defeat what seemed to be an overwhelming enemy.

As a result of these conversations, we decided to send another donation equal to the one we sent back in 2013, and to issue a challenge to our family pledging to match the amount they collectively give over the next three years (up to \$9,500). It is not enough that the profound heroism and achievements of these men be remembered by our generation. We must make sure the next generation appreciates and carries the torch for future generations.

For us, this project is so worthy, and supporting it is a way we can say thank you to those who gave so much in such desperate times. We are the lucky ones who have known the veterans first hand, who have heard their stories, and have become the keepers of those stories. Now it is our turn.

My father, Dave McKnight, was totally committed to creating a memorial room in the 390th Museum in Tucson, and so am I. Soon you will be receiving information on how you too can support this worthy cause. Please give generously. Your donation will make a difference!

Russ McKnight
Son of David T. McKnight
Commander, 335th Squadron
Air Executive, 95th Bomb Group



**“We want
YOU
to support the
95th legacy!”**

**Watch your
mailbox for
important
information on
Mission Tucson.”**

You Too: From our Facebook Friends

From Arie-Jan van Hees: Further to my earlier message regarding our project “The Faces of Margraten” <http://www.thefacesofmargraten.com/index.php/en-US/home> below please find the names of 95 BG crew members for whom we do not have a photograph. Can you help us in supplying a group photograph where names are added to faces, or with a personal photograph? Thank you in advance for your help in remembering these brave men!

CREW PILOT NAME	A/C SERIAL #
1Lt Schnebly crew	(#42-3110)
1Lt MacKinnon crew	(#42-29693)
1Lt Rubin crew	(#42-29763)
1Lt Nunes crew	(#42-29680)
1Lt Renaud crew	(#42-29702)
1Lt Stone crew	(#42-3286)
Capt. Bunch crew	(#42-30211)
2Lt Hodges crew	(#42-30150)
2Lt Beatty crew	(#42-30218)
2Lt Moore crew	(#42-30182)
2Lt Moore crew	(#42-102951)

CREW MEMBER NAME
AULD PHILLIP H
MILLER RICHARD C
HOOVER FLOYD C
HARDY ROBERT W and KEARSEY GRADY V
RILEY HARLEY H JR
WALTER CEBERT G
KING HAROLD T
BROOKS LLOYD R, BROWN WILLIAM R, BURLEIGH LAWRENCE C, PEACOCK JAMES W JR, and SHAFER ROBERT T
KLEMP ARTHUR E, PEREIRA AUGUSTO, and SPANGENBERG MILTON C
HEALEY MALCOLM O
BELL MARION L, ONIE MILTON S, PETERSEN KENNETH L, RATTTS DEAN M, and WATT WILLIAM T



From Todd Beezley:

Thanks to Phil for approving my request to join this honorable group. I feel like one of you, as my uncle, Fred Beezley, served among you at Horham Field, flying his 25 missions as a top turret gunner and flight engineer on a plane named “Blood and Guts.” He recounted many harrowing close calls during his service, and has saved many of his thoughts in writing. Those notes are in my possession, and I would be happy to share them with you as time passes, if anyone is interested. He told me the missions he was proudest to fly were the ones in which food was dropped to the starving Hollanders, shortly before the close of the war. He said the toughest target was Schweinfurt, I believe. I hope I spelled that correctly. Anyway, much respect and love to you all. It is good to be with family.

Editor’s Note: Related story on page 14.

From Candace Riccio Salem:

70 years ago this week, my dad, Vincent Riccio (flight engineer with 95th BG) spent his 24th birthday as a POW in Stalag XIB Fallingbostal. Three days later, on April 16th, the camp was liberated. The following excerpt from “Ever the Patriot” describes how he remembered the excitement of that day.

“We could hear the war really close. Down the road in front of the camp where we happened to be, we heard the noise of these German Tiger tanks. They came rumbling down the road and turned off into the woods. And I’ll tell you they made their own road as they went. About a half hour later, down the road came more tanks, and these tanks were British tanks. They were the 7th Armored Scots Guards. I will never forget them because this half a dozen tanks, which were following the German tanks, pulled into the field where the German Tigers went into the woods. Then they lined up and shut their engines off. We watched them from behind the fence where we stood. They got out of their tanks, and pulled out their canteens. These were hot canteens, and they sat down and brewed tea. They spent around 15 minutes there, relaxing, drinking their tea, taking a break. After a bit they got back in their tanks, buttoned them down, and went off into the woods after the Germans. A little while later, another tank came up and drove through the main gate, demolishing it. The tank drove right into the front of the camp, where at this point all the ranking British officers were lined up wearing the most beautiful uniforms—I don’t know where they got them. They were all prim and proper. I don’t know how they did it but these British officers still had their riding crops. The first tank came in and then the command tank came in, and of course we Americans were climbing all over the first tank. I got to tell you, all you wanted to do was kiss them.”

www.facebook.com/groups/95thBG/

*Where the 95th story
continues to be told*



You Too: From our Members & Friends

Two 95th veterans awarded the French Legion of Honor

On October 8, 2014, the French Consulate in Los Angeles held a ceremony for vets awarded the Chevalier (Legion of Honor). LT Robert Hastie attended in memory of all the 95th BG members who fought to free France in WWII, and those who never lived to see the freedom both countries enjoy today.



334th Co-pilot Robert Hastie receiving the Chevalier

Ken Hutcherson, 335th radio operator, wrote the following to 95th member liaison Linda Endris to share with us.

"I was honored on December 10, 2014 by being presented the 'Legion of Honor Medal' at the French Embassy in Washington. It was an unbelievable experience."

Follow the link below and the subsequent link to Flickr to see the full story and photos.

<http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article6355>

P.S. Ken remains very proud of the 95th. In a subsequent email to Linda about the award ceremony, he included the line "Go 95th BG."



Ken Hutcherson with his family at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.

A note to all our widows:

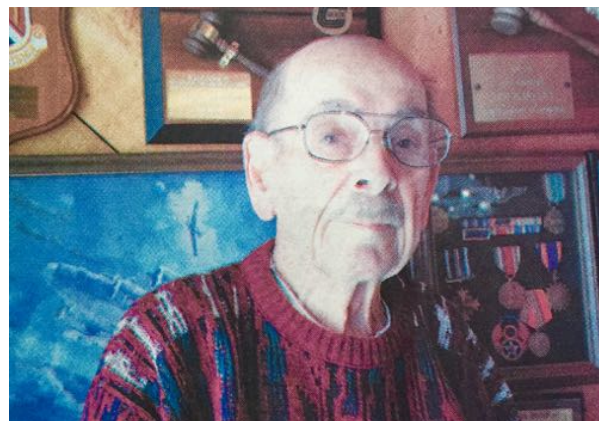
We so much appreciate you attending our reunions and renewing old friendships. However, we haven't seen too many in attendance—at Dayton there were only 3! My count could be off a little but not much. Please, those of you who can, think about 2016 (which hopefully will be in Tucson!) Contact any of us if you need any help or assistance in making these trips. My love to you all and do hope to see you SOON!

Jackie

Jackie DeHart
95th BG Widow's Liaison
Widow of Ted DeHart, Tail Gunner, 412th Squadron



Gene Grime holds *The Stars and Stripes* dated May 7, 1945. Gene flew 25 missions as a radio operator in the 336th squadron, and still knows Morse code. Editor's note: Gene and his wife, Nona, would love to hear from you! Give them a call at 707-224-7634.



Leo Makelky of Minot, ND was recently featured in several newspaper articles celebrating the 44th anniversary of the Air Force Association in North Dakota. Leo, a ball turret gunner in the 412th squadron, served as the AFA's first secretary, and later as president. He is also being honored as one of 43 veterans in *Veterans in Blue Volume V*, published by the Air Force Public Affairs Agency. His portrait is hanging in the Pentagon with those of the other honorees. For more information about *Veterans in Blue*, go to <http://static.dma.mil/usaf/veterans/>.

THE 72nd ANNIVERSARY REUNION TOUR

Horham, England

Thursday, September 10–Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Hosted by the 95th BG Heritage Association (UK)

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday: Travel day flying “across the pond.” Overnight at the Premier Inn, Bath Road.

Thursday: Assemble and depart from Heathrow Premier Inn at 11 a.m. for Diss/Horham, stopping at the American Cemetery in Madingly. Lunch will be on your own in Cambridge.

Friday: Casual day of leisure around town or with hosts, then a welcome reception and dinner in the Blue Lounge at the Red Feather Club Museum.

Saturday: Jeep tour, with refreshments on location. In the evening, enjoy a 1940’s dance at the Red Feather Club’s Blue Lounge.

Sunday: Morning service at St. Mary’s Church followed by a wreath laying at the 95th Memorial. The Wallopers softball team will show their stuff in the afternoon, followed by Cream Tea at 4 p.m. The evening will be free.

Monday: Afternoon bus trip to Holkham Hall (<http://www.holkham.co.uk/visiting/the-hall/introduction>).

Tuesday: Suffolk coastal tour to Dunwich where we can enjoy fish & chips at the Flora Tea Rooms. The Dunwich museum tells the fascinating history of this small, quiet village that was once a thriving port city equal in size to London. Tonight will be the farewell dinner at the Red Feather Club.

Wednesday: Leaving day, departing Horham at 8 a.m. and the Park Hotel in Diss at 8:30.

FLIGHT/HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

Arrivals to Heathrow: If you plan to arrive in England earlier for touring, or if you are planning a “red-eye” flight, please arrive no later than 8 a.m. on Thursday, September 10, allowing time to go through customs and catch a shuttle or cab to the Premier Inn at Bath Road. The coach will depart the Premier Inn for Horham at 11 a.m.

Departures from Heathrow: Flights should not be booked any earlier than 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16 to allow time for traffic and check-in. The alternative is to depart the next morning after a stay at the Premier Inn.

Heathrow Premier Inn at Bath Road, Hounslow: Make your reservations via the web: www.premierinn.com, or call 011-33-0871-527-8508.

ACCOMMODATIONS

With Friends: For those wishing to stay with friends in the Horham area, please contact them directly to make your own lodging arrangements. For those wishing to enjoy the warm and friendly “Suffolk Hospitality,” there are a very small number of homestay host families welcoming guests to their homes. Please contact Beverley Abbott to help make this arrangement. E-mail: beverley1960@hotmail.co.uk or phone: 011-44-1379-678-581.

Please note: as in past years, it is customary to compensate host families via a stipend to offset the cost of food and fuel. Single: \$25/night (\$175 for 7 nights), Double: \$40/night (\$280 for 7 nights). Any payment is to be agreed upon and settled between the guests and their hosts.

Hotel: Once again we will stay at the Park Hotel (www.parkhotel-diss.co.uk) in the market town of Diss, which is just around the corner from the heart of town, with its lovely shops, quaint town green, and mere (pond). Room rates are approximate, depending upon the exchange rate at that time, and include breakfast and taxes:

Single occupancy: \$114 per night; Double occupancy: \$130 per night; Family Room for up to 4 people: \$190 per night

For reservations, contact Andy Paine via e-mail at: info@parkhotel-diss.co.uk. at the Park Hotel or phone 011-44-1379-642-244. To get our special rate, be sure to mention that you are with the 95th Bomb Group reunion.

REGISTRATION

We encourage you to book early! Availability is limited to 45 because of coach limitations to and from Heathrow.

Deposits or payments are refundable until August 1, 2015, and later in the case of medical emergencies.

\$100 minimum deposit per person is due with your registration, with the balance payable by the August 1st booking deadline.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Vanna Walker at reunions@95thbg.org or by telephone at 214-725-1942.



95th BG 72nd REUNION TOUR

Horham, England September 10 - 16, 2015



Guest 1 (Please Print)	Guest 2 (Please Print)
Name	Name
Street	Street
City State, Zip	City State, Zip
email	email
Phone	Phone
Relationship to 95th	Relationship to 95th
Special needs (dietary/medical)	Special needs (dietary/medical)

DATE	ACTIVITY	COST	GUEST 1	GUEST 2
Thursday 10 Sept	Coach from Premier Inn to Diss/Horham	\$60		
Friday 11 Sept	Welcome Reception and Dinner at RFC	\$35		
Saturday 12 Sept	Jeep Tour	\$20		
Saturday 12 Sept	1940's Dance at Red Feather Club	\$25		
Sunday 13 Sept	Cream Tea	\$20		
Monday 14 Sept	Trip to Holkham Hall, Norfolk	\$50		
Tuesday 15 Sept	Flora's Tea Rooms for Fish & Chips, Dunwich	\$40		
Tuesday 15 Sept	Farewell Evening at RFC – Hog Roast	\$30		
Wednesday 16 Sept	Return from Horham/Diss to Heathrow	\$60		
	Daily coach for those staying at the Park Hotel in Diss (required)	\$45		
TOTAL PER GUEST DUE				
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (by August 1)				

ACCOMMODATIONS: Please check one below:

- I have made arrangements to stay with UK friends
Name: _____
- I have made reservations at the Park Hotel in Diss
- I have made reservations at the Premier Inn
Bath Road Heathrow for Wednesday, September 9
- I have made reservations at the Premier Inn
Bath Road Heathrow for Wednesday, September 16

Make a copy of this form and
mail with your payment to:

Nancy Freemantle, Treasurer
95th BG Memorials Foundation
P.O. Box 6154
Eureka, CA 95502

Make checks payable to 95th BG Memorials Foundation

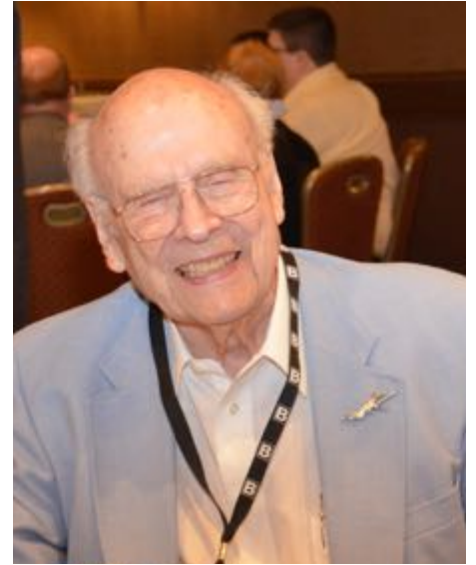
We are the keepers of their stories



Herb Wilcov



Bob Fay



John Walter



Irv Rothman



Raymond Hobbs



Ed Yursky





Keith Murray



Bill Owen



Richard Harvey



Charlie Riggs



Ben Roujansky and Joseph Cihon



In Loving Memory & In Honor Of

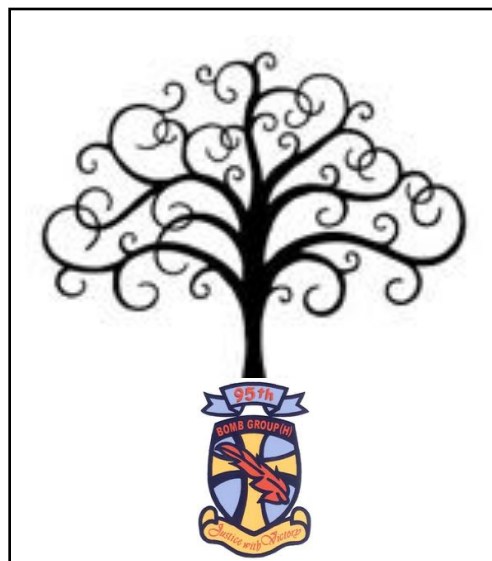
Our treasurer, Nancy Freemantle, reports that since the last newsletter, the Foundation has received donations "In Honor Of" living veterans, and "In Loving Memory" of those who have Left Formation.

In Loving Memory

Paul R. Baird	John Kozlowski
Eldon Broman	Billie Bob Layl
George E. Brumbaugh	George V. Macisaac
Leland F. Cowan	Frank A. Martin
S/Sgt Eugene Darter	Robert Paul McMurtry
Lt. Fran W. Derenberg	James V. Murphy
Myron Doxon	Joseph E. Mutz
Burt Evans	George J. Peck
Charlie Gallagher	Brad Petrella Sr
Guy E. Green	Paul J. Reynolds
Hiram Griffin	Richard Robinson
James (Hank) Henrietta	Allen E. Snyder
Adam & Annie Hinojos	Guillermo "Bill" Vasquez
Doral A. Hupp	Alex Von Stade Jr.
James A. Johnson	Lou Westerburg
John & Alice Kille	Kenneth Wright

In Honor Of

Jack Bertram
Ed Yursky



Military Funeral Honors is a way of expressing the nation's gratitude to our veterans who gave so much to defend our freedom. To make arrangements for Military Funeral Honors, call your nearest Air Force Base. They will be happy to connect you to their Honor Guard. More information can be found at:

www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh

Keep the Legacy Alive

- Remember a veteran every day
- Donate B-17's Over Berlin and/or Into the Wild Blue Yonder and Beyond to your public and school libraries
- Give your loved ones a Legacy Gift Membership to the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation (see back page)
- Notify the Foundation of any photos or memorabilia you are willing to donate or share
- Include the Foundation in your estate plan

"We will remember them"



LEFT FORMATION

Since our last newsletter, we have learned of the following 95th veterans who have Left Formation:

Name	Unit	Position	Date of Death
Melford P. Abraham	412 th	Pilot	February 20, 2015
Edward G. Cunningham	334 th	Pilot	February 1, 2015
James O. Frankosky	412 th	Co-Pilot	April 22, 2015
Harley F. Newland	335 th	Tail Gunner	March 3, 2015
Manuel M. Rey	335 th	Pilot	August 2, 2012
Victor E. "Ed" Rylander	335 th	Navigator	May 12, 2015
Jerry J. Sheehan	334 th	Navigator	February 9, 2014
Donald R. Snyder	336 th	Pilot	April 26, 2015
Leland S. Story	412 th	Waist Gunner	May 29, 2015
Guy L. Tice	334 th	Top Turret	April 4, 2015
John E. Watt	335 th	Bombardier	March 24, 2015



"...we honor all when we honor the Missing Man flag."

Can you help identify these men?



William McPherson, Jr., Crew (334th BS)

Back Row (L-R)

William R. McPherson, Jr. (Pilot)
 David F. Prees (Co-Pilot)
 Kenneth V. Winegar (Navigator)
 Rex A. Rice (Bombardier)

Middle Row – Unidentified

Front Row – Unidentified

Unknowns are likely:

Patrick C. Mungon (Radio Operator)
 Joseph B. Wilbert (Top Turret Gunner/Engineer)
 Edward J. L. Wall (Ball Turret Gunner)
 Lawrence C. Long (Waist Gunner)
 Earl J. Underwood (Tail Gunner)
 Laurence E. Doyle (Waist Gunner)

Glen Infield Crew (334th BS)

Back Row

Unknown
 Melvin A. Fladeboe (Navigator)
 Unknown,
 Unknown
 Unknown

Front Row (L - R)

Harry L. Bumgardner (Tail Gunner)
 "Shorty"
 Unknown
 Unknown



8th
Air Force



13th
Combat Wing



95th
Bomb Group



334th
Squadron



335th
Squadron



336th
Squadron



412th
Squadron



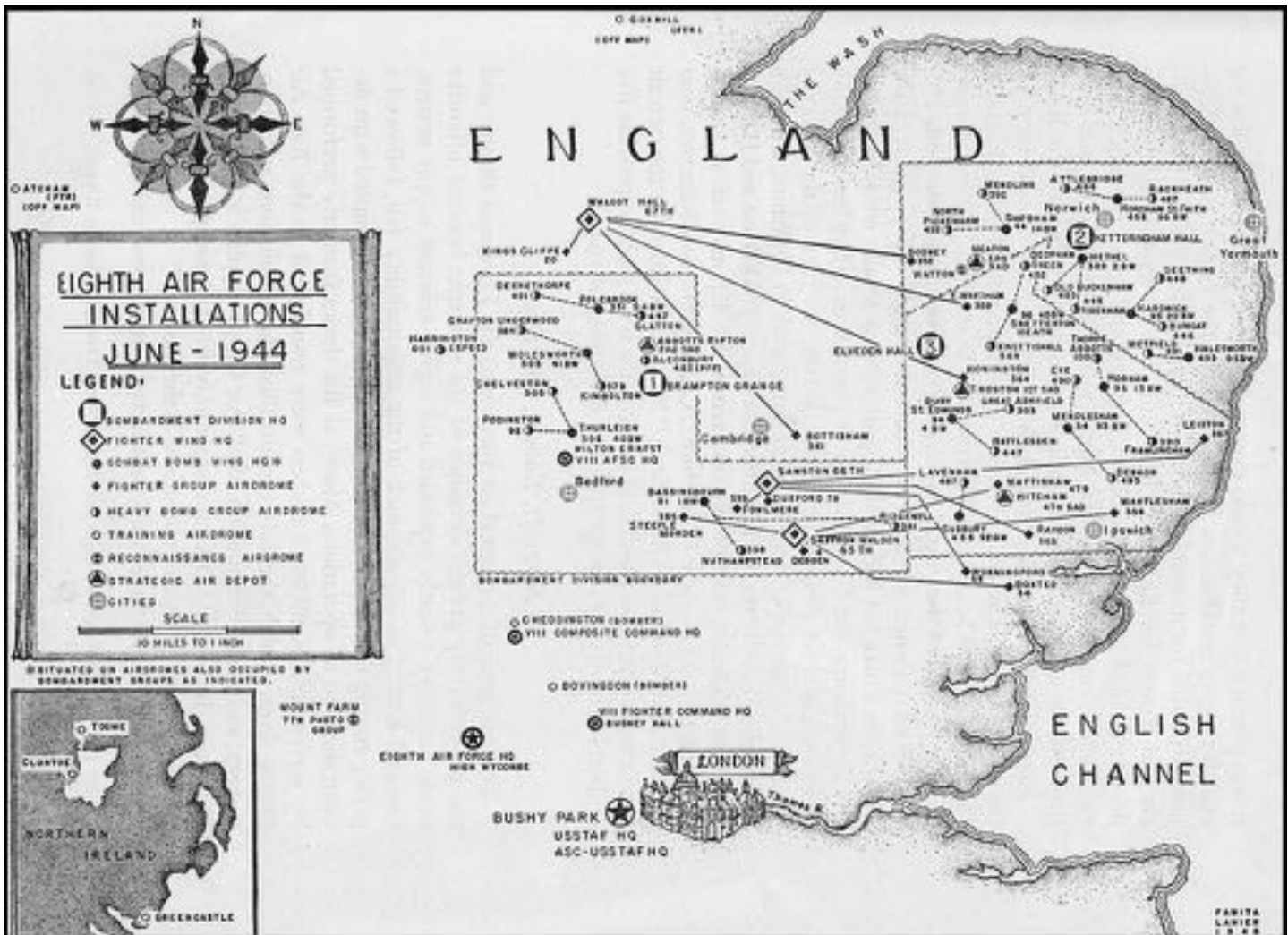
Unknown Crew, Stateside



Phil Samponaro
Lead Researcher &
Keeper of our Facebook page

If you can help us identify
any of these crewmen,
please contact me.

Thanks! Phil
history@95thbg.org
956-882-7447



Staff Sergeant Fred S. Beezley

by Todd Beezley, nephew

I dug into the family archives and unearthed all of the 95th Bomb Group service notes left by my uncle, Staff Sergeant Fredrick S. Beezley, as well as a brief written history of his time in the 8th AAF, published in September 1995 by the assisted living center where he lived. I hope you all find these personal memories as valuable and insightful as I did.

Fred Beezley served two years and two months in the 8th Air Force as a Staff Sergeant, top turret gunner and flight engineer on a B-17, a four-engine bomber. He was stationed in Horham Field with the 95th Bomb Group in Southeast England. Mr. Beezley received a European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, three American theatre air medals with Oak Leaf Clusters, a World War II Victory medal, and a Good Conduct Medal.

He flew 25 combat bombing missions over Germany and survived two crash landings: first in December of 1944 in Iceland, then, after being disabled over Germany, an emergency crash landing near Brussels, Belgium in March of 1945. In the early days of May 1945, Mr. Beezley flew over Holland and dropped food to the Dutch people who had been isolated by land that had been flooded when Germans blew up their dikes.

"After bombing and killing and destroying some targets, it was a beautiful experience those two days at tree-top level to see the Dutch people's expressions of relief and thanks as they waved to see us in the days before the end of five years of German domination. The Dutch left us messages on the ground saying, "Thanks Boys," spelled out with lovely replanted tulips and whitewashed stones. The feelings were overwhelming as we flew in very low to release our cargoes that would support life rather than kill."

Notes written by Staff Sgt. Fredrick S. Beezley:

Plane name: Blood 'n Guts

No art work

25 bombs on nose

Scoreboard...one each raid combat credit

P-51 Mustang fighter support...black Tuskegee airmen...

Terrific flyers! They saved our necks more than a few times!

Schedules time-wise varied with target area weather.

Wake-up 4 a.m. Breakfast 4:30 a.m. I couldn't eat breakfast...too nervous!

Briefing 5 a.m.

Start engines...take-off 6 to 7 a.m. Full formation over English Channel or North Sea, 7-8 a.m.

Bomb run and fighter support "little friends" times varied with distance into continent.

"Bombs away" 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

Return to base...3 to 4:30 p.m.

Interrogation on landing.

5 p.m. Dinner (only meal I would have all day...complete exhaustion.)

Fear, cold...minus 50 degrees...and hours on oxygen rob the body of heat.

30 men per Nissen barracks, upper/lower bunks, one tiny coal stove, blackout curtains on windows.

"Most terrifying moments? Too many to recall and each incident had its own indelible and everlasting impression. Mid-air collisions just above and ahead of our plane climbing at 20,000 feet. A ghastly orange and black explosive ball and massive disruption of air we flew through. Vacuum formed under port wing, we turned sideways and very nearly flipped. I'd rather not think or write any more about such things. Too goddamned awful and the permanent toll taken in just seconds. Weather-wise, a beautiful day dawning and guys dying instantly, unaware and unwarned that that moment for them and their families thousands of miles away could never be changed."

"The British people I saw and met in wartime were heroic and determined. The homes and families they lost to German bombers and fighters and buzz bombs were horrible, irrefutable evidence of the prices they paid. I was satisfied that all the world's joint efforts were not only justified in beating Hitler, but absolutely necessary because things were well on their way to God knows what. Imagine the free countries of the world ground under German and Japanese boots!"

Most satisfying moments?

"All a matter of degree. Bouncing in air stirred up by our own planes as we dropped food instead of our regular bomb loads on May 2 and 6 near Amsterdam just over the treetops. Dutch folks waving in thanks. Hitler's mob had flooded their dikes...no access from outside world to bring food other than airways we used at such "on deck" altitude. They were dying of starvation then...over 5,000 a week. Trying to eat May's tulip bulbs, all they had. Peace declared May 8 after 5 years of hell for them from German domination.

I used to know all the data on our machine guns' ranges. My top two guns, one named "Frank" and the other "Fred." (Editor's note: Frank was Fred's brother.) He was always with me up there when we flew and the going got tough. Frank was a busy guy back then, doing a great job keeping the family going back home; and helping the Lord and me over Germany when we had to fight our way out. That's how I learned how dreams and reality can be and really are one and the same. My option, and oh, how it helped in tough times!

Was leaving to come back to barracks after short pass to Henley when we learned war was over in Europe. It was only short-term relief because we had the Pacific and Japan to tackle by air, sea, land invasion. President Truman spared the world that horrible cost and experience by two atom bombs on Japan. And so, quickly, if not mercifully, ended World War II."

We are the keepers of their stories



Ringling the Bells for the Village of Horham

by Nancy McKnight Smith, Memorials/Repository Chair

How do you go about thanking a good friend for years of kindness and generosity? Our friends in Horham were part of a small quiet farming culture to be forever disrupted by the war and the arrival of the American airmen. How can the 95th thank the people of Horham for their deep friendship and sacrifice for the men of the 95th—and for the ultimate peace their sacrifice contributed to?

That was the question pondered by Lefty Nairn (a former staff sergeant and B-17 toggler with the 336th squadron) when he visited Horham in 1981 for the dedication of the B-17 tail monument. He loved the St. Mary's church, as did all the veterans—at least in part because it was the symbol of a safe mission "home" after near encounters with death. But he was saddened to hear that the bells had been quieted by the need for expensive repairs.

Lefty had an idea. But he had to sell it to the rest of the veterans. Lefty knew that the members of the Association were distracted by the idea of creating their own memorial room at Tucson and erecting other memorials in the USA. It was his challenge to convince the 95th membership that we needed a memorial in HORHAM—not just in the USA.

The bells of Horham are said to be the oldest Ring of Eight in use in England, yet they were silenced for many years for need of very expensive repairs. Lefty did his homework and with his dedication and zeal he convinced the skeptical leadership that this project would speak to the ages (and to the people of Horham)



This Roundel is a copy of the one carved in oak by Jane Quail of Gunthorpe, Norfolk, England and placed on the wall of St. Mary's Church, Horham, as a token of thanksgiving for the generosity of Members of the 95th Bomb Group (H) towards the restoration of the Ring of Eight Bells.



of the gratitude of the men of the 95th. The bells had been in Horham for about 500 years and with the help of the men of the 95th they would ring for many, many more. Ringing for peace; ringing to celebrate an enduring friendship.

With the help of Ellis Scripture, Lefty succeeded in convincing the men of the 95th of the worthiness of this project. In 1992 the largest postwar group ever of 95th visitors arrived in Horham to dedicate the bells. A banquet in Framlingham, as well as ceremonies inside and outside the church, were among the many festivities. The American visitors came and departed in three big buses, and the Bishop of Ipswich and the *London Times* reporter were also in attendance!

And as part of the festivities the bells rang, and the bells have been ringing ever since—ringing for peace and for friendship—for the village of Horham and for the 95th Bomb Group family!

Who was Lefty Nairn?

Lefty was a former staff sergeant and B-17 toggler with the 336th squadron during the war. He was injured early on and went home in a hospital ship because of his injuries. In civilian life he graduated from the University of Maryland and worked most of his professional life with the National Security Agency at Ft. Meade. According to his wife Anna and his son Randy, Lefty was a successful gardener and a leader in his church. From the latter perspective he was very uncomfortable with the idea that the Horham church bells would not chime again. And he did something about it!

Meet our new Website Administrator

We “met” Kimberly Blankenstein on our 95th BG Facebook page when she wrote about her website apilotnamedjoe.com dedicated to 95th BG pilot Joe Noyes. Kimberly holds a Bachelor of Science in Web Design and Development and is currently employed by Boeing as a Programmer Analyst.



Welcome aboard, Kimmy!

Many thanks to our retiring webmaster, Russ Askey, who also served on our Research Team and provided 70th Anniversary Twitter updates.

I just learned about the Boeing Volunteer Gift Match program and read through all the fine print in order to get a better idea of how it works.

I already have an automatic donation to the 95th Memorials Foundation deducted from my paycheck through the Boeing Individual Giving Program, but I was also curious if any of my volunteer hours could be matched. They can! The gift match exchange is 1:1 up to \$6,000 per year by the company. For example, for every 25 hours I do any kind of volunteer work for the 95th Memorials Foundation, the Boeing Company will match with \$25 as a cash donation.

If there are any other Boeing Company employees volunteering with the 95th, please let them be aware of this program as well.

Kimmy

A Pilot Named Joe

As a teenager in the late 1990s I became fascinated with the Second World War and The Mighty Eighth Air Force. It was at the peak of my obsession that I stumbled across the book [B-17s Over Berlin](#) on a shelf at my local Borders store. Within its pages I discovered a group photograph of forty-seven USAAF officers, and in that photograph, by some destiny, I found Joe Noyes.

After over seventeen years of independent research, Joe Noyes is a part of my life; and strangely his story is a part of my own identity. Even once I'm no longer here to weave a narrative from a hundred fragmented pieces, I strongly wish that his story will continue to survive the perils of time.

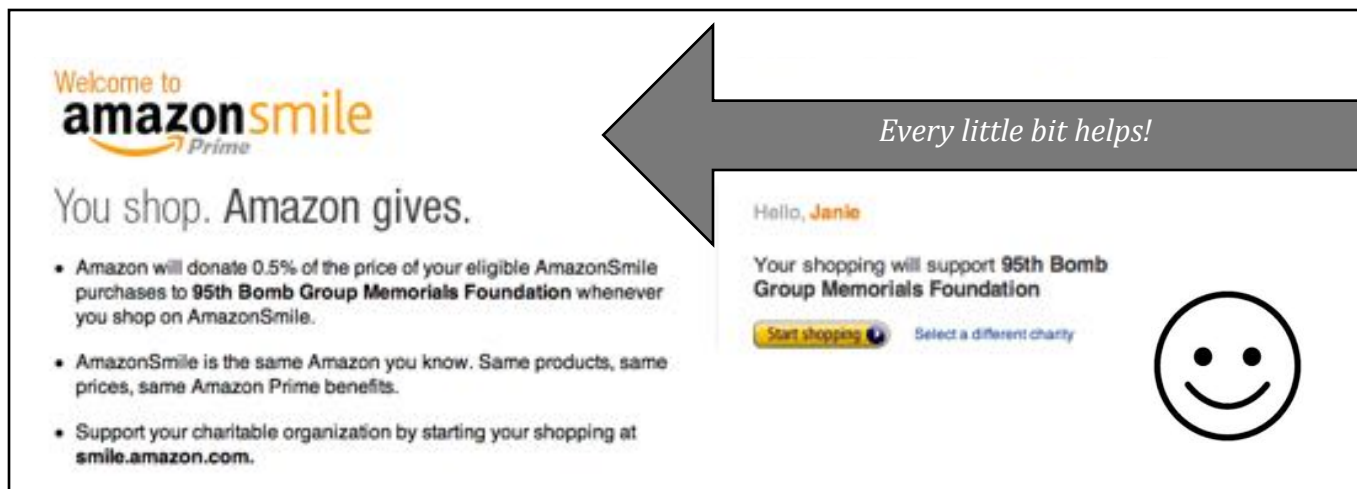
I have built this website as a tribute to the short but inspiring life of “Little Joe Noyes,” and to share his story with people around the world. This project is also for the families of the nine other men on board the “Sittin’ Bull” whose remains were never recovered. They will always remember their husbands, sons, and brothers, and might never get the answers which they so deserve. My heart goes out to them, and I hope that my efforts can assist them in finding a little closure someday.

Once upon a time I pinned up photos of the airmen from the 95th Bomb Group on my bedroom wall. Instead of popular celebrities and band posters, I admired the faded images of courageous Second World War aviators in their bomber jackets. They were true pioneers of the sky. Looking into their faces every day, I remember promising them then that they would never be forgotten.

Please get in touch with me if you are related to someone on Joe's crew, or if you recognize one of their family names, or live in one of their hometowns.

Thank you!
Kimberly Ann Blankenstein

<http://www.apilotnamedjoe.com>



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Every little bit helps!

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Your shopping will support **95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation**

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One Person Can Make a Difference!

by Sylven Watson

Approximately 70 years ago, sometime in the spring of 1945, my father Lt. Col Sylvanus Walker piloted his "El's Belles" B-17 on Chow-Hound runs. Here is a story that grew out of his service. You never know how what you do now may affect others in the future!

In his memoir B-17 pilot Lt. Col S. C. Walker writes:

"At that time there were many people of Holland in the area of the Zuider Zee that were starving. We (the Allies) had flooded the Zuider Zee by bombing the dikes covering most of the farming land. The Germans had been sustaining the people until the war got the best of them and they couldn't get sufficient food to them. In conjunction with a truce with the Germans that we would fly food into the area if they wouldn't shoot at us, the Eighth began to drop food from B-17s. We put plywood floors in the bomb bays that would swing down from one side to dump tow sacks of food at marked-off places. The food was jettisoned from (about) 400 feet above the ground. Some sacks of flour burst into a white cloud but we were told that most of the food did well. My crew made three trips with food. We had to fly below 400 feet above the ground or the Germans would shoot at us. The flights were five-hour buzz jobs."

What he didn't know was that a young boy by the name of Karel stood in a field in Holland listening to the roar of airplane engines and scanning the sky in anticipation. Karel's family had received news in their town that the Americans planned to fly over in the big airplanes that usually dropped bombs, but now food items would be dropped to the townspeople. There in the distance the outline of a plane could be seen growing larger as it grew nearer to the empty field where Karel, his family, and neighbors were waiting. All of a sudden there was an entire squadron of these planes in view and roaring over the field. Karel had to

duck out of the way as the food sacks came tumbling out of the bomb bays. With food landing on the ground all around, he saw townspeople and his parents running to gather any and all they could. Karel helped carry as much as he could but he was only a small boy. That night after dinner was consumed, tummies were full, and the kitchen was cleaned, Karel readied himself for sleep. It would be a good sleep tonight, no growling hungry stomach to keep him awake. He thought to himself "Someday I am going to make something of myself so I can repay this tremendous act of kindness the Americans have shown."



Vanna Walker

Karel Dicke studied extremely hard in school after the war and graduated from Leiden University in Holland with honors. His career grew with an internship in the United States. He settled on oncology as his field of medical expertise and by 2003 had become an extremely successful and respected pioneer in the growing field of stem cell research and transplants.

By the time Lt. Col S. C. Walker passed on in 2002, he could not have known the full impact the humanitarian efforts of WWII in which he participated would have on the world, least of all his own daughter.

In 2003, Lt. Vanna Walker, U.S. Army, youngest daughter of Lt. Col Walker, was carrying on with her life as normal for her (and those of us who know her know that is at break-neck speed), when the pain in her back became more than she could bear and was apparently not going to go away. She went to her doctor, tests were run, x-rays were taken, and reviews concluded that the bone cancer Multiple Myeloma had invaded her skeleton. It was an extremely grave diagnosis—a "sentence" in a way. At that time she was found to have 3 broken vertebrae in her spinal column, and 6 would eventually be the total. Judging from the progression of the disease when it was found, she was given 6 months.

Not one to give up, she elected a course of treatment that took her to a cancer treatment facility in Arlington, Texas. On one of her early visits to the treatment center, while she was receiving an infusion of cancer-fighting drugs, her oncologist, Dr. Karel Dicke, stopped by her bed for a visit. When he spoke Dr. Dicke had an underlying European accent and Vanna asked him where he was from originally. Dr. Dicke responded "Holland." Vanna was inspired to want to tell Dr. Dicke about her father and his WWII service and the "chow-hound" runs he flew over Holland. As she was telling about Lt. Col S. C. Walker, the highly regarded oncologist fell silent, listened intently, and his face grew soft and almost like a little boy's. When Vanna finished her abbreviated story, Dr. Dicke told her his story of receiving the food from those Americans and their planes.

Dr. Dicke continued Vanna's cancer treatment and through his pioneering of stem cell transplants, Vanna received a stem cell transplant from her sister in 2007 and has been in remission ever since.

One person CAN make a difference, whether they know it or not!

In Appreciation of Rod Hupp

Every once in a while an organization is lucky enough to have a volunteer come along who is willing to take on a huge project. For the 95th BG Memorials Foundation, Rod Hupp is one of these special people. For the past 10+ years, Rod has put in thousands of hours creating databases for our website. Thanks to Rod and his leadership of the Research Team, these databases provide a rich resource of 95th history that are easily accessible on our website.

At the dinner dance in Dayton, President Gerald Grove recognized Rod for his exceptional service to the Foundation, and presented him with a framed Certificate of Appreciation.



Dayton Days!



Kevin & Meg Brackney



Ed Yursky & John Walter
with the Missing Man Flag



Last Plane Down Ceremony



95th Sluggers
Brad Petrella and Phil Samponaro



The (Yursky) Gang's All Here!



Dottie Mattina – always on time!



Kaitlyn Hammesfahr, Meg &
Carley Brackney



Herb & Sandy Wilcov with Ben Roujansky



Bunny Dillon & M.J. Lippert



Our videographer,
Michael Baltazar



Irv & Nina Rothman

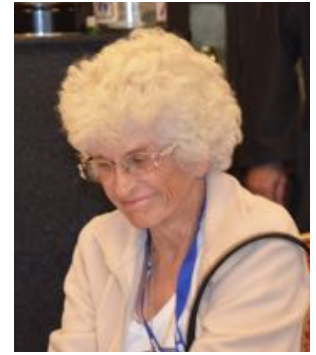


Jo Ann Hinojos



Drix Rixmann, Peggy & Tom Cozens

Our Belgian Friends,
Birthday Boy Luc
Zaman and his wife,
Marlene Piot



Patty Gardner



Janie McKnight & Ben Roujansky



Red Feather Mavens
Peggy & Nina Rothman



Beth Rosenzweig & Michele Behrens Slade



Winnie Hupp & Jackie DeHart



Deb Roberts, Nadine Moeller, & Ann Cook



The always amazing Grace



Love seeing that glint in
Keith Murray's eye!



Part of the 95th Fan Club



Dancing the night away



Ann Cook, PX Chair
Daughter of
"Mac" Makarewicz
Ball Turret Gunner
336th Squadron

Shop the PX



8th Air Force - Horham Patches



95th BG Squadron Patches



Red Feather Crest



Small Rectangular B-17 Patch



Red Feather
Crest Pin



Original Red
Feather Shield Pin



Red Feather
Pin



Notecards



95th Sticker



95th Mug



Canvas Low
Profile Hat



Canvas Low
Profile Hat



Polo Shirt (Men's & Women's)



Lined Nylon Shell with
Square B



Black & White
Summer Mesh Hat



5" x 8" Notepads



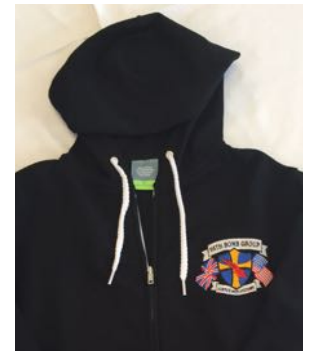
95th T-shirt



Polar Fleece Jacket with
Red Feather Shield



Hooded Sweatshirt



95th Full Zip Fleece



95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation, Inc.
 c/o 390th Memorial Museum
 6000 East Valencia Road
 Tucson, AZ 85756-9403 USA

Share the legacy...give a gift membership



If you are a veteran, widow, son, or daughter, please talk to your children and grandchildren about the legacy of the 95th Bomb Group. There is no better gift you can give than to make them a member of this proud and historic organization.

Simply fill out the form below and mail with your check to:

Nancy Freemantle, Treasurer

P.O. Box 6154

Eureka, CA 95502

(Make checks payable to 95th BG Memorials Foundation)

 (Please print)

This is a gift from: _____

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Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Amount enclosed: \$25/Individual \$45/Household

**Memberships keep us flying...
 Thank you for helping to keep the legacy alive!**