

June 1, 2009

*339<sup>th</sup>*



# Fighter Group Association

Station F378 – Fowlmere, England

## NEWSLETTER

“The Lads from Fowlmere”



Volume 29, Issue 2

Editor: Stephen C. Ananian

# D-Day!



Mustangs of the 339<sup>th</sup> go to work on D-Day!

Computer rendition by Dave Ails

# June Sixth It's 65 Years Later!

Reunion 2009 – Richmond, VA – Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>

Page 1

# A Day of Glory!

Maj. Gen. John B. Henry, Jr.,  
*Commanding Officer*



Col. John B. Henry, Jr.

All three Squadrons flew 3 missions each that day. The first mission flown was by the 503<sup>rd</sup> FS Led by Capt. Enoch Stephenson. A few of our pilots flew all three missions and most flew two missions. The follow-on missions of the day were retardation in nature. They were to "counter" any enemy forces attempting to move up and engage the invasion force. These missions were designed to destroy any troop convoys, artillery, tanks and of course trains. The destruction of trains was large on the list of targets. The 339<sup>th</sup> attacked several trains and racked up a huge tally of destroyed and damaged rolling stock.

By the end of the day P-51s of the 339<sup>th</sup> had flown between fifteen and twenty hours of combat flying and had reported three Ju-87s destroyed in addition! During the three-day period of D-Day (June 6, 7 & 8), the Group destroyed twenty-one enemy aircraft (17 air, 4 ground). After "D-Day plus two" we went back to routine escort missions and seeking "targets of opportunity". By this time the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force was getting on the ground in France to give close support to the advance of the invasion forces across France and Germany.

2/Lt. Peter J. McMahon (505) scoring the highest, is credited with having destroyed 3½ enemy aircraft in the air during that 3-day "D-Day Period." - 2 Ju-87s on 6 June, - 1½ FW-190s on 8 June. (Lt. Peter



2/Lt. Peter J. McMahon



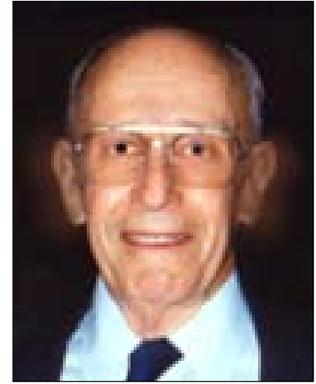
Capt. Enoch Stephenson

McMahon was reported KIA on 11 July 44 while strafing a Rail Yard in France.)

The 339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group acquitted itself with both honor and glory on D-Day and made a substantial contribution to the success of the invasion forces.

# From The Desk of Jim Starnes

*This is an excerpt from a story written by Tom Rich printed in a previous Newsletter that bears retelling. JIM STARNES*



## GAS PUMP / CONTROL

### We Thank You!

By G. Thomas Rich, pilot 505<sup>th</sup>



Capt. G. Thomas Rich

I do want to say a few words about the guys who operated our homing station "GAS PUMP."

I feel the work of our ground control is the under-told, under-praised story of the World War II Air War.

"GAS PUMP" and the tower "GAS PUMP CONTROL" never failed to put me safely on the ground in the quickest possible time. This includes those "hairy" times when I could not see the field or the tower, and the tower people could not see me.

On several occasions when flying on instruments, I was told "We are going outside the tower to listen for your engine." When I got close I would be advised "You are getting real close now, we are firing a flare -- look for it." On occasions it took several passes at the field. I would be told "You are going away now, make a one eighty\_" Eventually I would see the flare and obviously I always got safely on the ground.

**GREAT JOB, GUYS!**

Thanks for saving my life!

*(Upper Seven Niner)*



Homing station "silo" shown on right with rotating "H" directional antenna on the roof. Call sign "GAS PUMP"



# A Combat Report

By Bert Stiles, pilot 505<sup>th</sup> FS

*In the last issue of our newsletter (March 2009) we printed Bob Irion's Letter where he tells of a mission where he ran out of Oxygen. This is the account of that same mission as reported by his wingman Bert Stiles. Bert was a B-17 co-pilot in the 401<sup>st</sup> Squadron of the 91<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group. When Bert completed his combat tour in B-17s he elected not to go home but joined the 339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, 505<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron as a fighter pilot. We all enjoyed his great sense of humor and colorful language and marveled at his accomplishments as a bomber pilot. He was a talented writer and author. His book "Serenade to the Big Bird" was published after his death.*

*This November mission was notable for several reasons, beside Irion's near-death experience we encountered a huge "gaggle" of FW-190s and ME-109s. A few of the 109s had elliptical shaped wings as reported by Tom Rich and myself. We thought that they may have been the new ME-309s.*

*The History Channel's documentary on the P-51 Mustang contains an interview with Bob Irion during which he talks about Bert Stiles and his behavior. - What follows is Bert's Combat Report just as he wrote it! Colorful language and all! - Editor*



1/Lt. Bert Stiles

**Combat report for an encounter with the Luftwaffe somewhere west of somewhere around Leipzig •••• the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Irion of the 505<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 339<sup>th</sup> Group and his wing man, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Bert Stiles, SN#0695105, same squadron, same group.**

We were doing a lot of big-ass racked-up turns in among a bunch of big friends, who probably thought we were going to ram them plenty of times - - - but we didn't, Then Irion went into a screaming-ass dive and I went along too, and he said his oxygen was out, and he was going down where he could breathe.

We were in White Flight, Lt. Rich leading, Lt Ananian flying his wing, And Rich said he would go too and see that we were okay because we were way the hell in Germany and two people are not enough.

We were way the hell ahead and going like pale-ass bastards and Rich said to slow up and wait for him - - so we did a turn and joined him.

I don't know why we went so low but we did. We boiled down through a gap in a cloud and wandered into the suburbs of a goddam town. Every roof top in the vicinity starts showing these little white flashes which

always means unfriendly people

So I mentioned that we should get our ass out of there very soon since it would do no goddam good to get shot down over that town and be souvenirs for those sonsofbitches.

So we lost Irion going through that hole, so we went up through another one, - - - me right on Irion's ass.

So we pulled up through the haze into a host of aircraft, which I am a little more than pleased to see - **for about one tenth of a second!**

We are right under the whole f----- Luftwaffe. So I mention this to Irion.

I got a good look at these jokers because we could have poked them with a broom handle when they went over us. They were 109s. - Gray, with those big black-ass crosses on the wings - - - and this one had a funny wing - - - like a 109. Only a little different! Maybe elliptical. Maybe not. All I noticed is that it was queer. And the rest of the goddam airplane was 109 alright. They were going 180 degrees to us and we damn near pulled up into them. And there were enough of the sonsofbitches to make me goddam dubious about lingering.

We did a 360. Me right on Irion's ass. Looking around and around and seeing nothing but globs of those bastards everywhere I look - flying that goddam straggle-ass "gaggle" formation, doing big-ass turns. We hauled in on one bunch and I guess Irion flung a burst at one.

But by this time the whole goddam Luftwaffe was around there - - - vectored in to witness the execution of two bloody-ass Mustangs.

We probably might have got a couple of them by just pressing the goddam trigger and spraying the vicinity with 50s.

We were closing in on these operators in front of us when bunch "two" comes wheeling in on our ass and by then it is way past time for us to think of battle. It is time to get the hell home to the sack.

So I mention this to Irion in my most emphatic tone and say that there are clouds below us to hide in that look goddam beautiful.

So he says okay, we'll go for the clouds - - - so by this time these bastards on our ass are in range. I thought of turning into them, but not very hard.

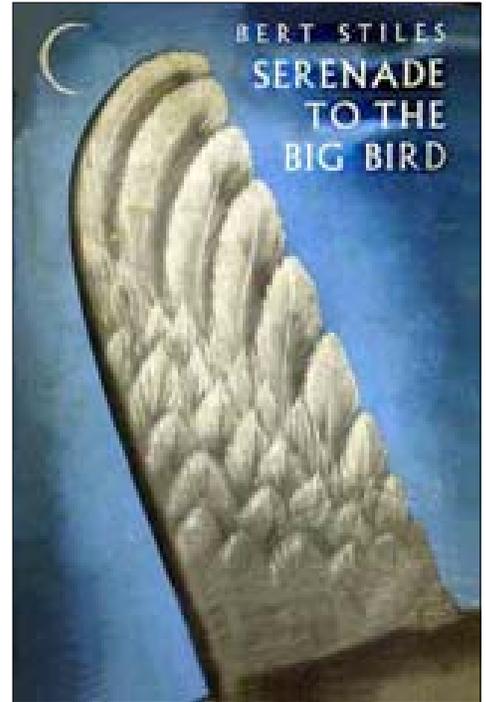
The sky around Irion was one big Fourth of July Celebration. There were those bright goddam flashing lights, - - - golf balls from those 20 mms. till I thought I'd go blind. And then I notice that they are also very damn close to me on both sides - - - because I am still close to Irion, and they probably don't like me any better than him.

So I did about three of the prettiest skidding-rolls and I am down in the soup.

All this did not take very much time, but if we had been in the open ten seconds longer, or maybe only two, we would have had it, but good! Right up the old ass!

So I went right into the middle of that goddam stuff and I already had everything pushed up to the firewall. - - - I leaned forward to sort of help it along, and I took out on a heading of

*Continued next page*



**Bert's Book –  
"Serenade to the Big Bird"**

two-seven-zero and flung that goddam airplane along at 400 plus till I ran into a hole in the clouds through which I took a quick look at the sky.

The Luftwaffe was gone! And so was Irion and so was Rich and Ananian - - - and so was Germany pretty soon. Col. Gravette told me to fly two-forty for awhile to miss the Ruhr Valley so I did. Then I called Sweepstake for a fix - - - and so did Rich - - - and I knew he was okay. I thought Irion probably had an ass full of 20mm. but he had called in, so I stayed right on top of the clouds ready to get back in and ball-assed out of that goddam country, pulling about 55 inches of mercury for quite a while.

I landed at St. Trend for gas and to see if I had any holes, but I didn't so they took me to lunch, which was spaghetti served by a Belgian dame who was hideous, then I took off and dragged my ass on back to the United kingdom.

Conservatively, I would say there were at least 40 of these sonsovbitches, in three main gaggles, which was quickly joined by a fourth. They might have been 309s because that one I really looked at had funny wings.

We out dove them, we were pulling up on them, and at the time we were not balls out or anywhere near it. I figure that with a little company helping us everybody would have become an ace.

They were at about 4,000 ft., right on top of the clouds.

So it was a long, hard day, and the Doc (Scroggin) got me striped-ass drunk last nite to soothe my battered nerves.

I am getting very goddam weary of having the goddam Luftwaffe practicing their goddam lousy gunnery on me. This makes it about the tenth time, - - - And it is just about my turn,

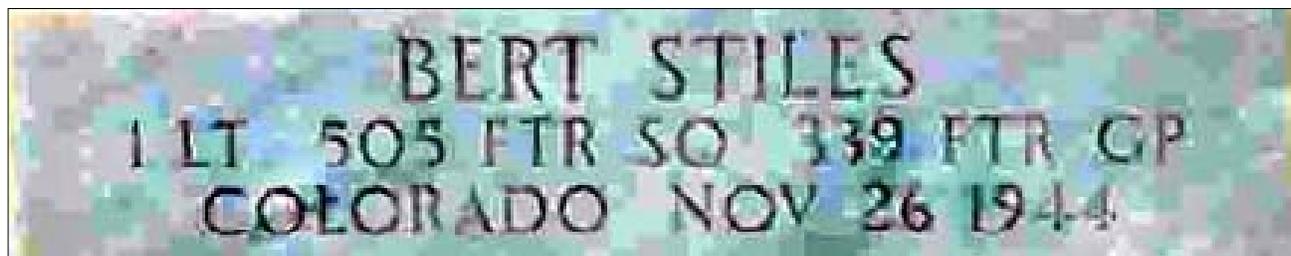
I hope to hell! - - - - -



**Marker over Bert's grave**

*Bert got his turn five days later on 26 Nov '44. Bert Stiles' was on his sixteenth mission as a fighter pilot. His flight ran into a couple of FW-190s. Bert was seen chasing a FW-190 and is credited with having destroyed it! It was also reported that he followed the crippled enemy aircraft down into the ground where it crashed. Harry Corey, who was there told me he thought Bert was buzzing too low celebrating his kill and accidentally hit the ground.*

*1/Lt Bert Stiles was reported KIA and is buried in the Ardennes American Cemetery in Neuville-En-Condroz, Belgium. - EDITOR*



# The Latest Reunion News

2009 Reunion is in Richmond Virginia

October 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>

By Bill Clark, 504<sup>th</sup> Squadron Unit Director

Last October at our annual reunion in Falls Church, the members decided to go to the Boston, Massachusetts area for the next reunion. Knowing the reputation of Boston to be pricey we also voted to have Richmond Virginia as a possible alternative if suitable arrangements could not be made in Boston. Well it happened that way, in addition, Boston hotels would not allow us to serve drinks in our Hospitality Room so we had no choice and we had to go with Richmond, Virginia.

Larry Powell our reunion chairman asked me to go there and check it out. Though new to us, Richmond is a city reeking with history and southern hospitality, and should be an excellent location for our group. Everything is convenient with the airport only 9 miles from downtown and all of the sights within a couple of miles of the hotel we have selected. The prices of food, drink, and rooms are very reasonable, and as most of you "east coasters" know, Richmond is right off I-95, very accessible by car.

We have made arrangements to stay this year at the **Crowne Plaza Richmond Downtown Hotel**. It is located in the financial center of the city overlooking the James River and is within walking distance of a number of the historical sights. It is less than a mile from the state capitol building, and has pay parking and complementary van transportation for travel downtown. A parking discount will be available for our members.

The room price is only \$89 a night plus local taxes (currently 5%). And this is a really first class hotel with excellent restaurant food.

It is important that we have an early estimate of the number of attendees to get our good rates. In addition the above room rate is guaranteed both three days before and after our event for those of you that would like to spend more time exploring all the city has to offer.

This year we plan on having the Saturday night unit dinners at the hotel with all of us together in a large banquet room but sitting as units in separate areas.

*Continued next page*



**Crowne Plaza Richmond Downtown Hotel**

As usual, HQ and ORD will join the 504<sup>th</sup> Squadron. There will be a fish, beef and chicken selection, but the meal will be different from that to be served the following night at the Sunday banquet. Just as with the banquet we will need to have an early idea of attendance at each meal, so please send in your entrée preference and money for all prepaid meals to Dick Thieme.

Also a hot Farewell breakfast (full buffet) will be served Monday morning from 6:30 AM until 9:30 AM

We can only guess right now as to the attendance at each meal and we tend to be somewhat conservative, so as not to be left out, we would appreciate the earliest possible notification on your part. Also you have to make your room reservations 30 days prior for us to retain our block and room rates.

**Bus Tour and Boat Ride** - A bus tour with a stop for lunch followed by a boat ride is being planned and we will inform you of complete details in the next newsletter. There is much to do in Richmond as it is the state capitol and was heavily involved in the American Civil War. Patrick Henry, George Washington, and Edgar Allen Poe are commemorated here among many others, and the sightseeing is rich with the fabric of the Deep South.

An initial idea is to do a tour similar to that we did last time at San Antonio combining a bus tour of Richmond with a stop at the Tobacco Company restaurant. This is a historical and scenic restaurant and will be followed by a boat tour of the James River and adjacent canals. Those not choosing to take the boat ride can have the bus take them back to the hotel.

**REGISTER NOW!** Thursday Oct 15 to Monday noon Oct 19 (4 nights). Registration is simple, just do this.

1. Call toll free **1-804-788-0900** and make your hotel reservations at the Crowne Plaza Richmond Downtown Hotel, 555 East Canal Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Tell them you are with the 339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group Association and would like the special room rate (\$89 a night). The same rate applies three nights before and after our event.

2. Fill out and mail in your reunion meal reservations making sure you indicate your entrée preferences for both the Unit Dinner and Banquet. Use the form on page 19. These meals are \$50 each and the hot breakfast is an additional \$18. Please indicate which unit you intend to dine with at the unit dinner so we will be able to arrange the seating.

3. For those flying in there are two ways to go to the hotel from the airport.

A cab will get you to the hotel for under \$30. The alternative, especially for a group would be to go with a airport van service called Groome which is located at the Airport and charges \$24 for a trip for one and a couple of dollars extra each for additional passengers. Their phone number is 1-804-222-7222. They appear to be very reliable. 

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**Dues for this year are still only \$10**

Newsletter Circulation – 491 – (447 USA, 44 Overseas)

# 339th Memorials in the Czech Republic

## "We Have Not Forgotten!"

By Stephen Ananian, *editor*

We are constantly told by our biased media of the hatred felt around the world of us Americans. My mail through the years indicates that the contrary is true. Bill Jaaskelainen our Combat Film Custodian recently sent me a copy of the following email sent to him with photographs. I thought that it would be appropriate to share this with you on this Memorial Day. My thanks to Joe Noah, founder of the Preddy Foundation and cousin of 503<sup>rd</sup> pilot Bill Preddy and his famous brother George for his assistance in the details.

On April 17, 1945 the 339<sup>th</sup> flew its last strafing mission of the war destroying 67 enemy aircraft on the ground. Sadly, the 503<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Squadron lost two pilots that day, Capt Raymond Reuters and his wingman Lt William Preddy.

According to eye witnesses Ray Reuters and Bill Preddy were strafing an airfield at Ceske Budejovice in the then occupied Czechoslovakia. According to Joe Noah, Ray was hit by flak and his Mustang exploded. Reuters was killed immediately. Bill was also hit but made a crash landing near the village of Zaluzi. Bill Preddy was seriously wounded and was taken to a hospital where he eventually died!

Bill Preddy and Ray Reuter were buried in a mass grave in the cemetery across the street from the hospital in Budejovice. Once their bodies were identified, they were moved to the Lorraine American Military Cemetery in St. Avold, France where George and Bill are buried side by side.

The local Czech people made memorials at the crash site of these American fighter pilots and tend them regularly. We hear from the Czechs from time to time and they send us photographs as well. This is the recent Email that Joe forwarded to me. The author knows very little English so I have edited it slightly to make it understandable.

*Hi,*

*I am Geoerge Zeman from Budweis Czech Republic. We are the military club of South Bohemia and we regularly go each year to the site of American pilots shot down from WWII. I would like to tell you that we have not forget on your pilots and always Mustang pilot W. Preddy. We know that he had yet famous brother George and is very sad that they perished both brothers in a few months successive.*

*Thank you and yours sincerely George Zeman.*

*Should you are interested, photographs is more.*

*I'm sorry I don't know well English*

George we thank you and your friends for honoring our fallen comrades. Your English is far better than my grasp of the Czech language.

# Czechs Honor 339th pilots!



Left - A granite stone marks the spot where Bill Preddy's plane crashed fatally injuring Lt Preddy. A bronze plaque is mounted on the stone honoring Lt Preddy. Local residents place flowers with Red White and Blue Streamers at the crash site.

Right and below - Members of the Military Club of South Bohemia at the crash site Salute the 339th pilots who gave their lives to free the people of the Czech republic.





Bronze plaque reads:-  
17 April '45  
Lt. William R. Preddy  
Pilot US Air Force

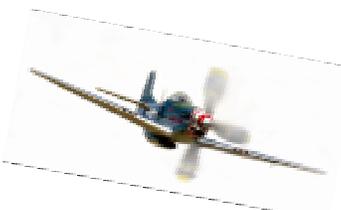


Photo of Capt Ray Reuters in a plastic sleeve is inserted over metal plaque. Plaque is in Czechoslovakian and English and reads something like this:- “Capt Raymond F. Reuter crash site of American pilot of the 503<sup>rd</sup> FSq 339<sup>th</sup> FG USAAF was shot down with his Mustang P-51 April 17, 1945 during the attack on the airport in Ceske Budjovice.





# Editor's Corner

## I Am Hurting!

By Stephen C. Ananian,  
*Editor, pilot 505<sup>th</sup>*

Today I publish this Newsletter with a heavy heart. My lovely wife Isabel passed away a few days ago on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 after a year-long bout with Cancer. I miss her so . . . .

I may be "Down" but I am not "Out"!

This issue celebrates the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day with a computer rendition on the cover by our newsletter artist and friend of the 339<sup>th</sup> - Dave Ailes. His painting depicts the 339<sup>th</sup> FG in action on D-Day over Normandy. It shows Enoch Stephenson in his plane "White Rat" strafing a train.. Dave's fantastic picture is followed by our Commanding Officer's account of that memorable day on page two

On May 25<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Memorial Day. It was too late for this issue so we have a three-page account of our friends in the Czech Republic honoring the memory of two 339<sup>th</sup> pilots in their country starting on page 9.

President Larry Powell our Reunion Coordinator is still struggling with a lung infection and has asked Bill Clark, jr. to take over for him as acting Reunion Chairman and Bill gives his plans for our Reunion in Richmond this year on page 7.

Bill has sent me the photo at right of his father's coffee mug that his dad and several of us had while at Fowlmere. He intends to bring it to our reunion and invites any of you out there that might still have theirs to bring it with them for all of us to see and enjoy.

Reggie Knighton son of 505<sup>th</sup> pilot wrote me, "Today the blue skies have a touch of gray . . . as your beautiful bride eclipses the sunshine with her ascent to Heaven."

Thank you Reggie - that says it all!



The name "Col. Clark" is printed on the side of the mug with Swastikas around the base indicating his score!



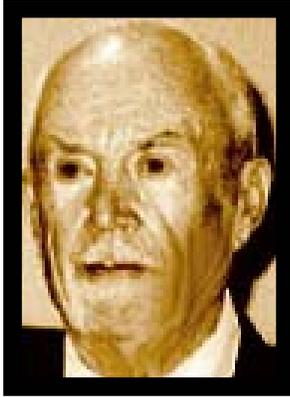
Actual size!

## 339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group Lapel Pins

This polished pewter four-colored Cloisonné lapel pin is a thing of beauty! Only 7/8 of an inch in diameter it looks like a piece of fine jewelry.

While we still have a few left! When they are gone that will be it! The price is \$10 each plus \$2 shipping per order. Just drop me a line with a check to the return address on this newsletter (back page).

# We mourn our loss . . .



**Harold J. Meyer**



**Phillip H. Ewing, Sr.**



**Barbara Gager**



**Isabel Ananian**

**Harold "Hal" J. Meyer**, Group Engineering Officer- I am sorry to say my dad passed away October 10<sup>th</sup> 2005. My father really enjoyed his Air Force ties.  
- *Matt Meyer, son* -

**Philip Henry Ewing, Sr.** Pilot 505<sup>th</sup> FS passed away on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2009. He passed away in his sleep while under the loving care of his wife Janet and his daughters who took care of him throughout his illness.

- *Richard H. Ewing, son* -

**Barbara Gager**, Wife of 505<sup>th</sup> Aircraft instrument Technician Andrew G. Gager passed away on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2009. She will be missed by all of us.

- *Andy Gager, husband* -

**Isabel Ananian**, Wife of 505<sup>th</sup> pilot and newsletter editor succumbed to a year-long bout with Cancer on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009. She leaves her husband of a 63 year marriage, two sons, four grandchildren, one great-grand son and two sisters. Oh how she will be missed!

- *Stephen Ananian, husband* -

Our condolences to all the families on their loss - - -



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## Donations

\$100 Robert Garlich, \$60 Richard Thieme, \$25 Marilyn Carollo, \$20 Richard Lewey, \$20 Warren Olsen, \$20 Phil Petitt, \$15 Con Hatfield, \$25 Frank Swinand, \$50 Roland Smith, Sr., \$55 Cary Breckenridge, \$60 Cordell Shaw, \$35 Bayard Lawes, \$50 Constance Little, \$30 Edward Purzycki, \$18 Sanford Adelman, \$20 Carmen Grande,

We thank you all for your generous donations.



## In Memorium

The following have donated monies in memory of their loved ones:-

\$110 in memory of 503<sup>rd</sup> pilot Carl French by his wife Beverly French.

\$60 in memory of 503<sup>rd</sup> pilot Lloyd Jeff French by his son Phillip B. French.

\$60 in memory of 505<sup>th</sup> pilot James Woolery by his wife Pepper Woolery.

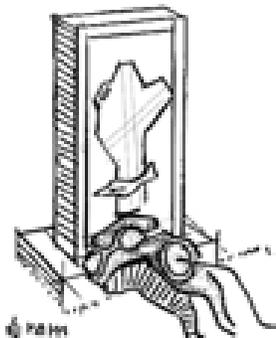
\$60 in memory of 503<sup>rd</sup> pilot William D. Stockton by his cousin Ray Stockton.

\$30 in memory of 505<sup>th</sup> pilot and Treasurer Emeritus, William Guyton by his wife Marjorie Guyton.

\$25 in memory of her husband 503<sup>rd</sup> Adjutant Sal Carollo by his wife Marilyn Carollo.

\$25 in memory of 503<sup>rd</sup> pilot M/G William E. Bryan by Marilyn Carollo.

\$25 in memory of 503<sup>rd</sup> pilot M/G Francis R. Gerard by Marilyn Carollo.



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## The Mail Bag

Enoch Stephenson 503<sup>rd</sup> Operations Officer writes:-

*Hi Steve,*

*Since you notified me of the death of Frank Gerard, he has been prominent in my thoughts. Let me pass along to you some of my thoughts about Frank.*

*Before Nip Carter was shot down, I was commander of "A" Flight in the 503<sup>rd</sup>. When Frank arrived, he was assigned to me. When I first met him, he was talking and I believe that trait continued for the rest of his life. He was a good addition because of his unbounded good nature and cheerful disposition.*

*He flew my wing on his first mission and did a good job of staying in formation and keeping his eyes open and his head swiveling, looking for "bogeys". Frank's progress was excellent. After I became operations officer, I flew with him several times.*

*Of course, his greatest achievement was shooting down four ME-109's on one mission. Incidentally, years later he told me that he shot down a fifth but someone up the chain of command denied that claim. His success was the result of skill, good eyesight and bravery. I have always admired him.*

*He was an excellent golfer and our wing commander, General Woodbury liked him for a partner and they played together frequently. The general tried to persuade Frank to stay in the Air Force and make it a career. Frank decided that he would get out and go to college and never looked back.*

*Frank was a man of high principals of honesty and integrity. He was always true to his word.*

*All of his great character and his ability were a superb contribution to the greatness of*

*the 503<sup>rd</sup> and the 339<sup>th</sup>. He is and will continue to be sorely missed.*

*Sincerely,  
Enoch Stephenson*

How right you are Enoch! STEVE



This letter from the director of the *museum in Kovarska, Czech Republic*:-

*Dear friends,*

*November 4th, 2008*

*I am sure you will allow me to inform you here about this loss, although Major General Frank Gerard was not member of the 100<sup>th</sup> BG of course... but he was one of your Little Friends!*

*As 20 year old Lieutenant he participated on the Mission on September 11th, 1944 when 100<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group flew to Ruhland. His group originally escorted the 447<sup>th</sup> BG to Bohlen, but when the 100<sup>th</sup> BG was under attack, the 503<sup>rd</sup> FS was able to come on time and with 55<sup>th</sup> FG stop the German fighters devastating the "Bloody Hundredth".*

*Lt. Frank Gerard shot down FOUR Luftwaffe fighters on this encounter and became the leading ace of the whole battle.*

*In 1997 Frank came to open our museum in Kovarska as representative of his 339<sup>th</sup> FG.*

*I will never forgot the time spent with Frank Gerard. His meeting with Major General Frank Perina, Czech fighter Ace from Battle of France in 1940 and later member of RAF or the Mass Celebration for airmen fallen on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1944 that we held as part of the Museum opening days in our St. Michael's Church in Kovarska - in three languages. It was the battle leading ace, an American Hero Frank Gerard who was reading there a passage in English from the Holy Bible. The church was full of Kovarska citizens and especially of the Museum opening guests, including American and German airmen, veterans of the battle, also as family members of the fallen airmen. It was so moving experience I will never forget.*

*Have a successful mission, Sir!*

*Jan Zdiarsky, director*

Thank you Jan for your kind thoughts. STEVE



*Bayard Lawes, 505<sup>th</sup> pilot sends us this note.*

*Dear Steve,*

*3/9/09*

*First I must congratulate you on the fine bulletin you keep getting out. How you can find things to write about after all these years blows my mind.*

*I thought you might be interested in a trip I took on my 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. I purchased a 1983 Dodge Van "Voyager", had it tuned up then set out for Las Vegas to visit my son. He's a helicopter pilot of over 20 plus years. (My son and I ferried a Airospecial Chopper to Cinema Air in*

*Mail Bag continued next page*



**Francis R. Gerard**



**Lt. Bayard Lawes**



*California many years ago which they used in the movie "Blue Thunder").  
After Vegas I drove on to Los Angeles to visit a friend and rubbed elbows with some TV celebrities.*

*From L.A. I went to San Diego, then Austin, Dallas Texas and finally back home to Michigan after 2 months on the road with my three legged Golden retriever.*

*I thought you might appreciate the picture of the P-51 I had put on the side of the Van.*

*Sincerely Bayard Lawes*

Bayard what do you plan for your 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday? Perhaps an automobile trip to the East Coast? STEVE



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## Roster Updates

Make the following additions or changes to your new mailing list: -

### Change: -

**WILLIAM H. COURTNEY**, 504<sup>th</sup> Crew Chief,  
305 W Main St., Apt 211, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945-6434

**Robert Addison**, 504<sup>th</sup> Communications Officer,  
80 Odyssey Drive, Tinley Park, IL 60477-4847

**Carolyn Salsberry**, 504<sup>th</sup> daughter of pilot Carol Bennett  
PO Box 1353, GRAHAM, WA 98338-1353

**Peter Caminiti**, Grp Physical Training Technician  
118 Hulbert Road, Gt Barrington, MA 01230-2302

**Gregory H. Arabian**, Friend of the 339<sup>th</sup> FG,  
102 Clematis Ave., Ste. 2-4, Waltham, MA 02453-7018



*Continued bottom of page 18*

# Reunion Details!

## Sunday Banquet Dinner Menu

**Crab Stuffed Flounder** - with Lemon Caper butter Sauce ----- Price \$50

**Chicken Cordon Blue** - (stuffed with Ham and Cheese) ----- Price \$45

**Prime Rib Au Jus** ----- Price \$50

*Dinners are served with salad, potatoes, vegetables, dessert - Freshly Baked Rolls with Butter - Freshly Brewed Colombian Coffee or Freshly Brewed Iced Tea with Lemon Wedges*

All prices Include 20% Service Charge (Tip) and applicable Sales Tax.

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## Saturday Unit Dinner Menu

**Grilled Salmon** - with Lemon Caper Cream Sauce ----- Price \$50

**Colonia Chicken** - (Stuffed with a seasoned breading) ----- Price \$45

**London Broil** - with Bordelaise sauce with mushrooms----- Price \$50

*Dinners are served with salad, potatoes, vegetables, dessert - Freshly Baked Rolls with Butter - Freshly Brewed Colombian Coffee or Freshly Brewed Iced Tea with Lemon Wedges*

All prices Include 20% Service Charge (Tip) and applicable Sales Tax.

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## Farewell Breakfast Menu

**Hot Breakfast Buffet** - Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, Breakfast potatoes, Pancakes or French toast, Fruit, Cereal, Yogurt, Juice, Biscuits, Oatmeal, and Assorted sweet breads  
*Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Assorted Bigelow Herbal Teas, Assorted Soft Drinks and Mineral Water.* ----- Price \$18

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## Reunion Side Trip

**Richmond City Tour and River Boat ride:** - Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> Friday – A narrated six hour tour of Richmond followed by a stop for lunch at Tobacco Company restaurant (You pay your own restaurant bill) Followed by a Boat Ride (paid for) and return to hotel. Sorry only room for 50.

Six hour guided tour and boat ride (not including Lunch) ----- price \$45

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## A Free Wall Calendar!



FlyPast magazine also published a "Wall Size" annual calendar that features a photo of the 339<sup>th</sup> P-51, 5Q-B on the cover as well as for the month of March! They have donated 15 calendars to our group which are yours for the asking! Just send \$3 to cover cost of shipping to your newsletter editor whose address is on page 20 for a free 8¼" x 11 ½" wall calendar for the year 2009!

# Reunion Schedule of Events

**October 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday** All Units will Host Bar!

**5:00pm** – Check in hotel / Registration at 339<sup>th</sup> Hospitality Room

**5:00pm – 6:00pm** - Welcome meeting

**Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> Friday** 505<sup>th</sup> will Host Bar!

**9:00am – 3:00pm** Richmond City tour and Boat Ride

Socialize and refreshments at “Hospitality Room”

**Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday** 504<sup>th</sup> will Host Bar!

**9:00am – 10:00am** - Board of Director's Meeting

**10:00AM – 11:00am** - General Membership meeting

**Free** schedule rest of the day to socialize, see the sights or whatever.

**5:30pm** – Unit Dinners at hotel –

Socialize and refreshments at “Hospitality Room” after

**Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday** 503<sup>rd</sup> will Host Bar!

**Free** schedule all day to socialize, see the sights or whatever.

**6:00pm** - Cash Bar - followed by

**7:00pm** - **Banquet Dinner** - After dinner socialize at “Hospitality Room”

**Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> Monday morning**

**6:30am – 9:30am** - Farewell Breakfast Buffet

**12:00noon** Checkout.



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*Roster Changes Continued from page 16*

**Marilyn Carollo**, 503<sup>rd</sup> Widow of Adjutant

21322 Golf Estates Drive, Laytonsville, MD 20882,

**Carolyn Bennett**, Daughter of 504<sup>th</sup> pilot

PO Box 1353, GRAHAM, WA 98338-1353

**Add:-**

**Matt Meyer**, GRP Son of Group Engineering officer “Hal Meyer

95-201 Ulahea Pl., Mililani, HI 96789

**Matt Cirillo**, 503<sup>rd</sup> Friend of the 339<sup>th</sup> FG,

11 Lombardi Drive, Derby, CT 06418

**Delete: -**

**Harold Meyer** deceased, **Marjorie Guyton**, **Bessie Ziegler**,



# Reunion Registration Form

Please fill in your Name:-

First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Also list any additional guest names separately for Name Tags.

			<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Registration Fee for each person attending	\$15	each _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Richmond City Tour / Boat ride -	\$45	each _____	_____

### Saturday Night Unit Dinners

**IMPORTANT!** My Unit is - 503<sup>rd</sup>  - 504<sup>th</sup>  - 505<sup>th</sup>  - HQ -  Ordnance

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fish	\$50	each _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beef	\$50	each _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chicken	\$45	each _____	_____

### Sunday Night Banquet Dinner

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fish	\$50	each _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beef	\$50	each _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chicken	\$45	each _____	_____

### Monday Morning Farewell Breakfast

<input type="checkbox"/>	Farewell Breakfast	\$18	each _____	_____
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Total \_\_\_\_\_

Make your checks payable to the 339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group Association and mail with this completed form (or photo copy) to: -

**Richard G. Thieme, Treasurer, 2732 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Sheboygan,  
WI 53081-6802 - - Phone: (920) 452-4780**

## **339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group Association Board of Directors**

*John B. Henry, Commander and HQ Director -*

**Lawrence J. Powell, President - William R. MacClarence, Vice President -**

**Richard G. Thieme, Treasurer - Stephen C. Ananian, Secretary -**

**Warren L. Olsen, Ordnance Director - Luther Francis, 503rd Director -**

**William Clark, Jr., 504<sup>th</sup> Director - David Williams, 505<sup>th</sup> Director -**

**Lawrence J. Powell, Reunion Coordinator -**

**Joyce Eiswald, Hospitality Room Coordinator**

### Members Emeritus

**William R. Guyton, Past Treasurer - Chester Malarz, Advisor - James R. Starnes, Advisor**

**Dorothy Clark, Advisor**

### Past Presidents

**William E. Bryan, Jr., Sterling A. Conley, Fred W. Cox, Francis R. Gerard, Gerald E. Graham, Robert E. Irion, Lawrence J. Powell, Thomas G. Sams, Dr. Fred R. Scroggin, James R. Starnes, Charles J. Steffen, Enoch B. Stephenson, Joseph L. Thury**

### Newsletter Editor

**Stephen C. Ananian - Phone (864) 288-2599**

**Email: - stephen.ananian@339fg.com**

June 1, 2009

**339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group Association, Inc.**

C/o Stephen C. Ananian, secretary  
4 North Orchard Farms Avenue  
Simpsonville, SC 29681-4866, USA



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----- MAILING LIST UPDATE FORM -----

Check your name and address on the mailing label. Make certain it is correct. If not, fill out this form and mail to the address below. If you wish to pay dues you may also use this form.

- Please accept my donation of \$10 for my dues for the 339<sup>th</sup> FGA. (Tax Exempt)
- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please send me a free Wall Calendar. I enclose \$3 to cover shipping costs
- Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ 339<sup>th</sup> Lapel Pins @ \$10 each plus \$2 additional for shipping  
(Number)
- Please mail me the latest Membership Roster of members

**339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group Association, Inc.**

C/o S. C. Ananian  
4 North Orchard Farms Ave.  
Simpsonville, SC 29681-4866, USA

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

First Middle Last

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (if you wish) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_