



# Videmus Omnia

## 55<sup>th</sup> STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2005

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings from the Heartland.

The change of seasons is in the air at Omaha/Bellevue. Colors are starting to show in the trees. It's a beautiful time of the year. And....sooner than you know....our reunion in Omaha, September 20-24, 2006, will be happening. Planning is on going.....things are falling into place, and there will be an interesting agenda for all attendees to enjoy.

Association Secretary **Max Moore** has consolidated the preliminary data for those who want to get a head start on lodging. Get this one on your calendar and come see the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* in current battle dress as they are "up to their ears" in the War on Terror.

Can you imagine the current **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**, over seven thousand men and women, many deployed around the globe, others stationed permanently at locations other than Offutt? The **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** is now a huge operation, the largest wing in the Air Force.

We have two new members on our Board of Directors. **BGen Craig Koziol** nominated and the Board approved replacements for **Col (Sel) Jay Strickler** and **LtCol Will Hampton**. The new Directors are **Col Don Kelly**, Deputy Ops Group

Commander, and **LtCol Ken Bauer**, Director of Staff. Both are seasoned 55<sup>th</sup> warriors with firm roots and broad experience in the wing's mission. Welcome aboard gents. See their complete bios under Corporate HQ on our website. (*Also see article on page 9.*)

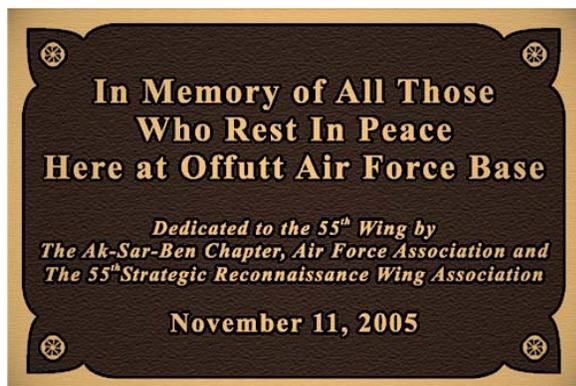


The Association's latest project with the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing, providing a flag and flag pole for the Offutt Cemetery, is similar to many projects we have done to benefit the Wing in the past. The Association history, following herein this issue, is an excellent record of the outstanding projects that the

Association has completed. It is a thorough document Max has compiled and kept updated.

Timing is good on the flag pole project as it was an idea BGen Koziol had expressed to his staff. The Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, **Chief Bob Muthard**, contacted the Air Force Association local chapter (**Mike Cook**, president), and Mike offered a joint effort to the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association**. Not to let an opportunity get by us, we accepted...and the rest is history.

The flag is flown over the cemetery, and as we go to press, the CE troops of the 55<sup>th</sup> are putting the final touches on the surrounding brickwork and lighting. We are planning for a formal dedication on Veteran's Day this November.



*Proposed dedication plaque*

**Call for Hall of Fame Nominations:** The Hall of Fame Recognition Program process, procedures, and criteria document is found on pages 17/18 of this newsletter. **I am hereby putting out the official Call for Nominations. Packages are due NLT 15 January 2006.** All others details of the program, nominations, and selection are in the Hall of Fame process document.

**We need your recommendations.** Appropriate recognition of those whose contributions to the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* stand out among the many who have served so well **is a must do**. Let us keep putting our best in the Hall of Fame so that the current 55<sup>th</sup> warriors can see whose footsteps they are walking in, and whose example of patriotism is the price of freedom.

Enough from me. Max has done another "Pulitzer prize" job on the newsletter. Lots of good stuff to bring you up to speed on the latest and past and upcoming events. You all be careful out there.

*Videmus Omnia, Jim.*



## REUNION OMAHA

The real push for the September 2006 reunion in Omaha will come with the next issue of *Videmus Omnia* (Mar/Apr), with full details on registration, schedule, costs, etc. They will also be available on the web site as they are finalized. **But, it isn't too soon to start making your plans to attend.**

**Jim Thomas** is chairing this 25<sup>th</sup> reunion, and already has a cadre of committee heads and members. A working schedule has early plans for a Friday evening banquet and 'an Offutt day' on Saturday ending with an informal BBQ on base.

The Embassy Suites, Downtown/Old Market, will be HQ for most of the activities. It is located just across the street from the bustling and eclectic Old Market area of Omaha, noted for its diversity in fine restaurants and myriad specialty shops.

For those wanting to book early, the number is 1-800-EMBASSY(362-2779), refer to the ID name: **55thSRW Association** if you use the call in. Or you can go online and check out the hotel at [www.embassysuitesomaha.com](http://www.embassysuitesomaha.com). If you register online, the ID block code is loaded as **RWA** since SRW was already allocated.

The IDs are needed to get the special reunion rate of \$119 for single and \$124 for double occupancy (plus taxes and fees, 16.46%). The rate is good for three days either side of the 20-24 September 2006 reunion dates.



**EMBASSY SUITES  
DOWNTOWN/OLD MARKET**

This may seem high to regular reunion goers, but it must be pointed out that the Embassy Suites is **not** your generic hotel. The accommodations are two-room suites with more amenities and conveniences than a regular hotel – sleeper sofa, refrigerator, microwave, two TVs, wet bar, coffee maker, iron and hairdryers, et al. In other words, “*Everybody gets an upgrade!*”

The rate includes for guests, a made-to-order, hot breakfast, an evening manager-hosted cocktail reception, complimentary newspaper, and free parking **every day**; plus free shuttle transportation to/from the airport.



Now, if you haven't been to Omaha in several years, you are in for some pleasant surprises. The drive from Eppley Airport (which has been enlarged several times) has had a major makeover with lighting, sculptures and towers. The UP rail yard and other eyesores are gone and replaced with the Gallup campus, the Quest Omaha Center, a Hilton hotel and the Lewis and Clark Landing on the river front, just to name a few improvements there.

Omaha now has a skyline with major buildings rising in a revitalized downtown. The stockyards were closed and removed years ago. There is a world class zoo (with an indoor jungle, Desert Dome, aquarium and the new gorilla valley where the people are inside); Joslyn Art Museum; Botanical Gardens; ConAgra's International HQ campus; the frequently updated Rosenblatt Stadium (home to the triple-A Omaha Royals, and the NCAA College World Series) all add to the city's allure to business and tourism visitors.

There are a symphony orchestra, opera, theater, a pops series; Broadway shows come to town, and big name acts have hit the city regularly. A spanking new, state of the art performing arts center just opened in mid-town Omaha. Culture abounds and the Big-O is no longer a cow-town.

**Begin making your plans to 'Return to Recca' at Omaha/Offutt in September 2006!**

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## **ASSOCIATION BUSINESS & MEMBERSHIP SOURCES DIRECTORY**

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Association, as of 21 August 2005, had a checking account balance \$8,230.13. Another \$17,441.84 is in a saving account.

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Also on 21 August 2005, the Association had 959 members in good standing, 157 of which are widows, and 35 associated members. This is a net decrease of 65 members since 1 May 2005.

The Association has members in **48 states** (we lack representation in North Dakota and Alaska, go figure), Guam, Puerto Rico and APOs in Europe.

The number of **active duty members** continues to rise as interest has picked up due to the Association's exposure in the Offutt area, the solid support of the **Wing** senior staff, and as members continue to recruit.

**Membership status indicators are explained one more once: 2005 on your address label means that your dues expire at the end of this year, and you are still a regular member (RM) in good standing. Any other year indicates when your dues will expire, or have already expired.**

**It is time to reup, now. It isn't too early to get your 2006 dues paid, even though they come due in January.**

**LM** designates a life member. *Dues not required.* **HLM** denotes Honorary Life Member (Widows). *Dues not required.*

**AM** indicates associated members, such as certain **55 Wing** senior staff positions and other individuals with a special relationship with the Association. *Dues not required.*

**NLR** designates that the newsletter goes to individuals and organizations for the benefit of the Association. *Dues not required.*

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**If your dues expired 2004, \$20.00 is due to include 2005. One year's dues is \$10; \$25 will update your membership for three years beyond what now shows as an expiration year.**

**NOW is the time to renew.**

*If your dues expired in 2004, this is the last newsletter you will receive unless you renew your membership. There are 58 persons in this status.*

Please remit dues to **55SRW Association** and mail to Errol Hoberman as soon as practical. For those who receive this newsletter via regular post, an Association-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

New members receive the Association's dual-shield lapel pin and the **55<sup>th</sup>SRW** Cold War Memorial coin when they join. Members desiring replacement or additional pins can get them from Errol for \$5.00 prepaid (*if you want more than one pin, the cost is just \$3.00 for each additional pin if mailed at the same time; i.e. one pin, \$5, two pins, \$8, three pins \$11, etc.*).

**Bill Ernst** and Max Moore have pins and coins, as well, so members in the Omaha area can get the pins from them for \$3.00 without the postage. Extra coins are \$5.00 each.

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*Over the years, it has not been an unusual occurrence for some members to include modest amounts of money over and above that required for annual or three years' dues to add to the treasury.*

*Every dollar is appreciated.*

*But, this year there was a one time donation of \$1000 given by a generous member who wishes to remain anonymous. It can be spent for whatever the Association feels most useful.*

*The gift brings to mind that others may wish to contribute to the Association with an outright donation, or by an endowment or bequest.*

*Something to think about.*

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**If you don't receive e-mails from the Association, it likely is because your e-address is not listed or outdated. To get on the *members only* e-mail roster, or correct/update, send your current e-mail address to Errol Hoberman at SAC-EWO@mchsi.com.**

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*If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip*

# A HISTORY OF THE 55<sup>th</sup> STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION



The history of how the **55<sup>th</sup> Strat Recon Wing Association** came to be and evolved has had limited distribution, and it is way past time the entire membership had this knowledge. So, the following is for your edification.

The Association began in the late 1960s as an informal, loose-knit group of retired former **55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW)** RB-50, RB-47 electronic warfare officers (EWOs) who had been stationed together over a period of years.

That group so cherished their time as Cold Warriors in the best outfit in the **Air Force** that they desired to stay in touch and get together from time to time to maintain friendships and relive/retain what had been their active duty camaraderie.



Initially, the organization was called the **55<sup>th</sup> ELINT Association** due to the nature of its membership made up primarily of former EWOs (Ravens, Crows). The “founding father” was Col (USAF-Retired) **Bob Dibbell**, a pilot by trade, who acted as president, secretary/treasurer, newsletter editor, et al. In short, a one-man board of directors. **Bruce Bailey**, who had been the Association’s ex-officio historian, picked up the baton in 1991 for a few years when Bob ‘retired’.

Gradually over time, the organization grew in numbers and began to include more pilots, navigators and other **55<sup>th</sup>SRW** alumni as the Association evolved. In 1985, at the suggestion and urging of the **55<sup>th</sup>SRW** Commander at the time, **Col Mark Heller** (who was the guest speaker at a reunion in San Antonio), the group changed its name to the **“55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing**

**Association”** to indicate a more inclusive, broad-based membership.

By early 1994 a cadre of the Association members concluded the organization had grown so large in membership and treasury that it was time for a formal, structured form of governance. An ad hoc committee of Association members, consisting of **John Marks, Sam Pizzo, Sparky Adams, Charles Waters, Burt Barrett, Ben White, Bob Dibbell, Larry Mitchell** and **Bailey**, met in April at the Hampton, VA, reunion and formed the foundation for the organization as it is today.

In June 1994 Waters became Acting President and led an interim steering committee of Dibbell, Adams, Pizzo, Mitchell, White, Max Moore, **Errol Hoberman, Rex Nevill, Mickey Schussler, Rufus West, Robb Hoover, Tony Rais**, and **Reg Urschler**, who kept the Association viable until the September 1995 reunion. That group adopted and submitted Articles of Incorporation and bylaws (patterned after similar military, professional organizations) to the state of Florida in February 1995. *(Due to an admin oversight, the official name of the organization was abbreviated when the Articles were submitted.)*

The first Board of Directors and officers were elected under the new Articles at the Ft Walton Beach, FL, reunion 30 September 1995. Sam Pizzo became the first elected president. Bill Ernst was elected to the chair in September 1996 and served until March 2005, when Jim Thomas took the reins.

The stated purpose of the Association is reflected in **Article III**: *“This Corporation is organized..... to foster and advance patriotism, love of country and for charitable purposes associated therewith, together with providing pleasure of association for recreational purposes of former members and associates of the **United States Air Force** unit known as the **55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing**.”*

While initially established as a sort of ‘alumni association’, the expanded membership now includes a significant number of active duty troops in the current **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**, and elsewhere; plus friends, associates and those who supported the **55<sup>th</sup>** over the years.

## **Membership**

Membership now numbers nearly 1000. In an era when veterans’ organizations are experiencing

declining rolls, this Association is one of the few, if not only, veterans' organizations that has gained membership. Case in point: in September 1997 there were just over 500 members.

Among the Offutt area Association members are committed retirees of all ranks who continue to assist the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** as employees of the government and contractors; as members of the Offutt Advisory Council; helping plan/organize/assist with the annual Offutt Open House/Air Show; serve on the Birthday Ball planning committee, and attend the event in significant numbers; assist the Wing Historian and Protocol Offices; among many other activities.

The **55SRWA** members are a valuable resource of experience and expertise still contributing. Many increase the Association's visibility by attending official and social functions of the **Wing** while wearing the 'regimental tie' or dual shield logo polo shirt/cap.

Beginning in September 1996, two positions on the Association Board of Directors were established for two volunteer active duty personnel nominated by the serving **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Commander, and approved by voting of the Board of Directors.

From December 1997, the incumbents of senior staff positions of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** have been granted automatic gratis membership in the **55SRWA**. Those positions are: Wing Commander and Vice Commander, Operations Group Commander and Deputy, Maintenance Group Commander and Deputy; squadron commanders of the 38RS, 343RS, 45RS, and 97IS. The Wing Command Chief MSgt and 338CTS commander were added later.

Additionally, the newsletter is now sent to all the units of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**. All the above actions were done to foster a closer relationship between the Association and the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**.

In November 2002 the Association officially adopted the dual shield logo (*seen at the beginning of this newsletter*) of the **55<sup>th</sup>SRW** and the current **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**, representing the connection of the past with the present.

### **Reunions**

The Association held its first reunion in El Paso in 1970 attended by about 80 people. Reunions have been held roughly every 18 months since in such diverse locales as Ft Lauderdale, Seattle, New Orleans, Las Vegas, Colorado Springs and Reno.

Omaha was the site of gatherings in 1976, in 1988 (nearly 500 retirees and active duty attended), and in 1996 as part of the grand fifty-year strategic reconnaissance celebration (over 800 attendees of which more than 400 were **55<sup>th</sup>'ers**).

One of the most significant and memorable reunions was held in Fairborn (Dayton), OH, when the **55SRW Association** joined the USAF Museum to co-host the Recon Rendezvous 2003. The main purposes were to dedicate a memorial to the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** Cold War veterans, and to see the newly opened Cold War annex to the Museum. At that reunion, of the over 700 attendees, about 500 were **55<sup>th</sup>** alums and family members. The most recent gathering was held in San Diego in March this year.

The next gathering, the 24<sup>th</sup>, will be a "Return to Recca" extravaganza at Omaha/Offutt in September 2006 to reengage the Association membership with the active duty men and women of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**.

The Association publishes a newsletter, **Videmus Omnia**, about every six months, a biannual membership roster, and maintains a very informative web site at [www.55srwa.org](http://www.55srwa.org)

### **Contributions**

The **55SRWA** has provided financial support for several worthy activities in recent years. Among them: purchasing Birthday Ball souvenir wine glasses in 1997 (\$1800) and 1998 (\$1900), and annual donations of \$1000 since 2000 to subsidize the costs of tickets for lower ranking enlisted troops.

Other significant donations (and there have been many, many smaller ones): Sep 95, \$1000 toward Cold War Recon memorials now in the former SAC Museum near Omaha; Jun 97, \$1000 to the C-130A Memorial at Ft Meade, VA; Sep 98, \$2000 to Air Force Museum for Cold War Annex fund; Nov 98, \$3000 to SAC Museum for Cold War display; Feb 2004, \$1000 to US Air Force Memorial Fund.

The **55SRWA** has made notable contributions to the Wing's heritage in other ways: Continued participation in the nomination/selection process of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing's** Hall of Fame since 2001; and assumed responsibility for the selection process of inductees into the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Hall of Fame beginning in 2003.

The creation of a **55<sup>th</sup>SRW Association Award of Excellence** (*established February 2001*), which is presented annually to members of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**

at the Birthday Ball. Initiated the traditional *“Tales of the 55<sup>th</sup>”* event on the eve of Birthday Ball in January 2001.

Far and away the most important, monumental (*pun intended*), and lasting accomplishment by the **55SRWA** was the donation drive to establish the **55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing** Cold War Memorial at the USAF Museum. Beginning in May 2001, the planning, designing and commissioning of the monument, benches and brick patio, culminated in the dedication ceremony of the impressive memorial on 6 September 2003 to an emotional audience over 500.



As each member can readily see, you belong to a viable and vibrant organization that is thriving very well, thank you. That happens because of the dedication and commitment of the entire membership, for which you can all be justifiably proud. *Videmus Omnia, Forever!!!*

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## MEMORIAL BRICKS CAN STILL BE ORDERED

Dear Friends,

Just a reminder: I know that there are still some **55<sup>th</sup>** veterans out there who haven't gotten the word about the **55<sup>th</sup>** Cold War Memorial that was completed in the US Air Force Museum Memorial Gardens, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, and dedicated in September 2003. This project is a magnificent

tribute to the Cold Warriors of the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** and is centered on a paver brick patio.



Many of the bricks were engraved-to-order for the purchasers. If you haven't bought a brick, or know of an individual who has not bought a brick and wants one, **the time is now** to purchase one or more. It will be necessary for us to have 15 or more orders for the contractor to engrave the additional personalized bricks on-site.

The cost is \$65 for each brick, and the engraving is **limited** to three lines, 13 characters per line including spaces, dashes and slashes (**No periods, commas, colons or semicolons or quotation marks**). Example is as follows:

LTC JOE DOKES = 13 Characters  
 RC-135 AC/IP = 12 Characters  
 38TH/343RD SRS = 14 Characters, but ok

If you want to upgrade your membership with a brick buy, send us **\$100** and you will pay for **a brick and three years' membership extension**. Add \$65 for any additional bricks.

As I have said before, **now** is the time to get a brick for your grandchildren and great grandchildren to reflect upon in the years to come.

Make your checks to **55SRW Association**, tell us exactly how you want your brick(s) to read, and mail to Bill Ernst, 410 Greenbriar Court, Bellevue, NE, 68005.

**No more orders for bricks will be taken after the reunion in September 2006.**

See you in Omaha in 2006!

*VO, Bill*

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## NAMES ADDED TO MONUMENT

Diligent and exhaustive research and documentation by Association member, who was acting-squadron commander of the 24th SRS, **King Hawes**, has proven that six enlisted crewmen who were assigned to the **55thSRW** at Offutt AFB, NE, and who were TDY to the 6 SW, Eielson AFB, AK, were among those who perished when Rivet Amber, RC-135E, was lost over the Bering Sea on 5 June 1969.

Extensive communications (May-July 2005) between Hawes, and monument coordinators Bill Ernst and **Jack Kovacs**, Historian Robb Hoover, and President Jim Thomas, lead to the obvious conclusion that the names of those six crewmen should be placed on the **55thSRW** Cold War Monument in the Memorial Gardens at the National Museum of the Air Force at Dayton.

An executive meeting was held on 27 July 2005 at Offutt AFB, chaired by President Thomas and attended by Board members: Ernst, former president, Historian Hoover; Secretary Moore, and Mike Cook and Jim Maloney. Also present were Association members **Harry Tull, Frank Hicks,** and **Gerry Pritchard**.

Purpose of the meeting was to put forward the findings of this investigation and announce that these names will be placed on the monument.

Additionally, determining placement of the names on the monument was necessary. After a discussion of various proposals, the decision was made to engrave the names on the back base, reverse side, in alphabetical order, two lines in three columns, all caps, using print size and font **identical** to those on the front of the monument. Above the names will be engraved "**55th SRW HONOR ROLL**", also **identical** to the front of the monument.

All actions taken are a continuation of the original monument project and adhere to previous decisions made.

The cost to add names and honor roll inscription will be approximately \$200. The Association has money in the monument fund for such circumstances.

Kovacs will coordinate with Dodds Monuments to have the engraving done on-site.

The names to be added to the monument are:  
**TSGT Charles Dreher, SSGT Robert Fox, MSGT Herbert Gregory, TSGT Hervey Hebert, TSGT Lester Schatz and TSGT Donald Wonders.**

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## ARTICLES MEMBERSHIP AMENDMENT

Over time the Board of Directors has established various categories of dues-free memberships, all of which for the betterment of the Association, i.e.: widows, honorary life, associates.

In February 2005 Board member Michael Cook noted that Article VIII, Membership, of the 55th SRW Association Articles of Incorporation stated that the Association "*will have a single class of members, each required to pay the appropriate annual dues.....*"

Based upon Cook's opening discussion, it was determined by a consensus of the Board that Article VIII should be amended to conform to the current situation. This matter and suggested actions were discussed at length at Board meetings at the reunion in San Diego in March 2005, but the issue was tabled for future decision.

President Thomas initiated a discussion/action on amending Article VIII and adding Bylaw 7 on 13 May 2005 via e-mail by outlining the amendments and the process.

After a period of appropriate reflection upon the proposals, **George Ross** on 16 May moved that the changes to Article VIII be adopted. Motion was seconded by Griffin and Maloney same date. The president called for voting. Motion carried by unanimous 'yes' votes on 16-17 May 2005.

Thus, the last sentence of Article VIII, will now read: "*The Corporation will have classes of membership as specified in the Bylaws.*"

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## BYLAW 7 ADDED

Subsequent to the passing of the motion to amend Article VIII of the Articles of Incorporation, on 17 May 2005, Hoover moved to add Bylaw 7, Membership, to the existing Bylaws. Moore seconded. The president called for voting on the

same date. The motion passed with unanimous 'yes' votes on 18 May.

The new Bylaw 7 reads as follows:

### 7. Membership

7.1 Classes of membership include Regular Member (RM), Honorary Life Member (HLM), Life Member (LM), and Associate Member (AM).

7.2 Annual membership dues for Regular Membership (RM) will be as determined by the Board of Directors (BoD).

7.3 All widows(ers) of 55thSRWA members are considered to have Honorary Life Membership (HLM) status. No dues required.

7.4 Life Membership (LM) status is granted by the BoD to individuals who have made very special contributions in service or otherwise to the Association. No dues required.

7.5 Associate Membership (AM) is granted by the BoD to certain active duty positions in the 55th Wing, such as Wing CC/CV or other senior staff positions, and other persons with special relationships to the Association. AM are not required to pay dues.

7.6 The 55thSRWA newsletter may be distributed to positions of the 55th Wing, other persons, or to affiliated organizations at no cost, for the benefit of the Association in lieu of granting membership. Those will be designated Newsletter Recipients (NLR).



### NEW ACTIVE DUTY BoD MEMBERS

**Capt Beth Kelley**, LtCol Will Hampton and Col (Sel) Jay Strickler, all of whom served the Association with dedication, and had a sincere appreciation for what the 55SRWA stood for and accomplished, departed the 55th Wing this spring and summer. Each one contributed in ways both large and small to the enrichment of the Association. Their service to the 55SRWA was recognized to each before they went on their various career rises. They will be missed.

Consequently, two new volunteer active duty members have been added to the Board of Directors in July. Col Don Kelly and LtCol Ken Bauer were nominated by the 55th Commander and approved unanimously by the Board.

Kelly is a navigator who served in the 55th from 1983-87, and after a variety of assignments and schools, returned to the Wing as Deputy Ops Group Commander early this year. A native of Papillion, NE, he has been steeped in the culture of the 55th since he courted and married **Arlen** and **Mary Howe's** daughter, **Melinda**. Don enlisted in the AF at Arlen's urging. (*Good move, Ziggy!*)

Bauer is currently serving as the Director of Staff in the 55th Command Section. He is a pilot on his second tour with the Wing. He has been an ops officer of the 38thRS, 45thRS, the Ops Support Sqd, and at Souda Bay, Crete; and been Chief of Stan/Eval. His hometown is Grafton, WI, and his wife is **Lisa**.

Both of these gentlemen are enthusiastic about being part of the 55SRWA and we are pleased to welcome such professionals to the ranks.



## THE 55TH SRW ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The 55th SRW Association Annual Award for Excellence is presented to that individual, crew, group, or organization that best exemplifies the basic tenants of the 55th SRW Association.

The award winners are announced at the annual 55th Wing Birthday Ball and at 55thSRWA reunions. Their names are inscribed on the base of the trophy and they receive a representative plaque.

The process for selecting the 2005 awardee will begin early in the new year.



The unveiling of the imposing trophy always gets an appreciative response from the Ball crowd. It now resides between the memorabilia cases, near the 55<sup>th</sup> ceremonial bell, in the lobby of the Gen Russell Dougherty Conference Center at Offutt. Many significant events are held there each year, including the ACC Commanders Conference, so it is in a high visibility area.

Past award recipients are **LtCol Ricky McMahon**, 338<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron commander, for 2000; and **MSgt Steven and MSgt Lisa Haggett**, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Command Section, 2001; **LtCol Kurt Kramer**, 38<sup>th</sup> RS commander, 2002; and **Col (Sel) Glen Gulleckson**, 343<sup>rd</sup> RS commander, 2003; **TSgt Terry Hunt**, Medical Support Group, 2004.

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## TALES OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup>

The seventh edition of the “*Tales of the 55<sup>th</sup>*” will be held Friday, 31 March 2006, at the Offutt Club beginning with a social hour at 1600.

Opening the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Birthday Ball weekend, speakers from various eras of 55<sup>th</sup> heritage tell their tales. It is one more opportunity for 55<sup>th</sup> alums, both local and out-of-towners, and active duty troops to mingle, and relive, or learn of, some significant stories from the *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth’s* history.

Originally created and coordinated by Robb Hoover, President Thomas has taken over the duties of orchestrating and emceeing the affair. The 2006 program speakers are being lined up.

This year’s event will again be tri-sponsored by the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association, the Strategic Roost, Association of Old Crows; and the local Curtis E. LeMay Chapter, Order of Daedalions.

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*If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember everything you say.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## 55<sup>TH</sup> WING BIRTHDAY BALL 2006

The 28<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ball will be held on Saturday, 1 April, 2006, at the Quest Center Omaha.



This is a departure from the traditional January/February schedule for a variety of reasons. Further details will be posted on the Association web site as they develop. But, mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

*See Nebraska in springtime, tra la.*

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## ONCE AGAIN NOW, 55<sup>TH</sup> GETS A NEW COMMANDER



On 28 September the wing welcomed **BrigGeneral (Sel) Jonathan D. George** to the chair. His previous position was Deputy Director, Plans and Programs, HQ ACC, Langley AFB, VA. His background is mostly bombers (B-1, B-2), and he was commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> BW, Dyess AFB, TX.

Seems like just the other day, but it has been nearly two years since then-BGen Craig Koziol made history as the first non-rated commander of the *Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth*. Now, **MGen K.** moved on to a three-hatted job. Read this: Director, Joint Information Operations Center, US Strategic Command; Commander, Air Intelligence Agency, Air Combat Command (ACC), both at Lackland AFB, TX; and Deputy Commander for Information Operations, 8<sup>th</sup> AF, Barksdale AFB, LA. (*Hey, I don’t ‘splain ‘em, I just type ‘em as I get ‘em. Max*)



*MGen (Sel) Koziol receives copy of "We See All" from Pres Thomas prior to departing as 55<sup>th</sup>/CC*



## T A P S



**Bess Tejada Bergmann**, 85, 2 May 2005; Pomona, CA; husband, **Phillip**. Bess was the widow of Lt Fransico Tejada, a member of the O'Kelley RB-50 crew shot down in 1953. Bess and Phil have attended 55<sup>th</sup> reunions, most recently in San Diego last March.

**Robert J. (Bob) Holubury**, 85, 18 August 2005; Bradenton, FL; wife, **Lori**. A WWII fighter pilot with 76 combat missions, Bob later served in the 55<sup>th</sup>SRW as the Deputy Commander for Ops, 1957-59, and then in the SAC Recon Center. He retired in 1972 as a BG.

**Douglas Keene**, 63, 16 March 2004; New Strawn, KS; wife, **Carolyn**. Doug was an RB-47 maintenance troop at Forbes AFB, KS, in the early 1960s. He later moved to Offutt AFB, NE. He left the Air Force in 1968 and had a career in managing customer support for computer organizations.

**Thomas W. McKinney**, 63, 30 April 2005; Dayton, OH; wife, **Katherine (Kate)**. Tom was

assigned to the 343<sup>rd</sup> SRS as an RC-135 navigator at Offutt in 1966-1970. He later served at Korat Royal Thai AFB flying recon missions in Viet Nam. Son, **Brian**, has been accepted into the ACC Heartland of America Band at Offutt.

**Brian McGuire**, 60, 1 September 2005; LaVista, NE; wife, **Dina**. A long time friend and supporter of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Brian served in the Joint US-UK Intel Center at Molesworth, UK. He was an avid aviation history and art enthusiast who actively supported various military and professional organizations in the Offutt area.

**Marvin (Mike) Michaels**, 6 August 2005; Sealy, TX; wife, **Ellie**.

**Henry, (Hank) Monjar**; 82, 15 August 2005; Maryville, MO. Hank was a WWII veteran who was an EWO in RB-50s in the 55<sup>th</sup> at Ramey AFB, PR, in the early 1950s.

**George Rardin**, 58, 27 May 2005 in a motorcycle accident; Prineville, OR; wife, **Carol**. George was an AC and IP in EC/RC-135s with the 55<sup>th</sup> at Offutt in the late 1970s and into the 1980s, serving in the 2ACCS, 38SRS and stan/eval. He retired in 1989.

**Kelly Ross, Sr.**, 85, 17 January 2005; Redwood City, CA; predeceased by wife **Lorraine**. A World War II veteran pilot, he was assigned to RB-29/50s with the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW at Ramey and Forbes AFB, KS in the 1950s.

**Charles Stroad**, 76, 5 June 2005; Grosse Pointe Farms, MI; wife, **Arlene**. A Korean War veteran before joining the 55<sup>th</sup>, Charles later became an attorney for the Michigan District of the IRS.

**Stanley Szkarlat**, 51, Burnsville, MN; wife, **Karen**. A pilot in the 38SRS at Offutt in the early 1980s, Stan went with NW Airlines in 1986.



**TAPS** – News of Association members, friends and associates leaving this mortal coil, should be sent to Jim Thomas and Max Moore (*see DIRECTORY, page 3 for contact info*).

**Please include next of kin and an address and to whom the Association condolence card may be sent; date of demise, pilot/nav/EWO, whatever; approximate years with 55<sup>th</sup>, and any other pertinent information.**

**The news in TAPS is limited by how much and how accurate the given information.**

## LETTERS AND STUFF



Errol: 24 June 2005

With my dues renewal, I am including an extra donation to use for whatever is needed to support the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association**. It is a memorial to my wife **Virginia**, or **Ginny**, as most knew her.

From the time we were married in 1950 until 1964, when I was transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup>AF HQ at Barksdale AFB, LA, Ginny was a **55<sup>th</sup>** wife, doing all the things that helped make the **55<sup>th</sup>** the greatest wing in SAC.

Besides attending all the ladies' functions, such as the OWC, she spent hundreds of hours as a Red Cross volunteer at hospitals, baked cookies for the airmen, and many other activities associated with the Wing. She was always a gracious hostess at the many planned, and impromptu, crew and wing parties that did so much to establish the great *esprit de corps* the **55<sup>th</sup>** had.

And yes, she sweated out the numerous TDYs, not knowing if she would get that dreaded call that some of her friends had received. She did this bravely, and maybe not so cheerfully, because she knew this was my profession and it was what I wanted to do. She did this without having a husband around to take care of those manly duties with car, yard and house. As I look back, I now realize that she had the toughest job, but never complained. A true **55<sup>th</sup>** wife.

As I re-read this letter, I know that what I've written applies to **all** the **55<sup>th</sup>** wives, past and present. So to all of them I say, "Thanks for a job well done. Without you the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** could not have been the outstanding unit it was in the past and is today."

Most sincerely,  
**George Penfield, Shreveport, LA**

\* \* \* \* \*

*(A well written and heartfelt tribute, George. I expect most all of us would add a rousing chorus of 'Hear! Hear!' Max.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Max:

I just received and downloaded the e-newsletter. Another super job!!

**Dick Purdum**, Bellevue, NE.  
*(From an e-mail, 16 May 2005.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Max:

Thanks for another great newsletter. Lou and I hated to miss the bash *(in San Diego)*. Family obligations intervened.

"Little Bill" and Carol *(Lewis)* must have put on a real 'zinger'. We missed you all.

Our vote for the next reunion is for the **55<sup>th</sup> HQ** in Omaha in 2006. I'm dying to smell a feed lot.

Fond regards to you and your lovely bride,  
**"Big Bill" Lewis**, Kerrville, TX.

*(E-mail, 15 May 2005.)*

*(Alas, William the First, the feedlots have been long gone from Bellevue and the stockyards from South O for many years. But, the great steak restaurants abound. Max)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Super web site at [55srwa.org](http://55srwa.org) and newsletter.

Thanks!

**Don White**, Granbury, TX.  
*(E-mail, 16 May 2005.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Errol: June 2005

I *(have been to)* the web site and *(received the)* newsletter. It was great to get all the info. But always sad to read the names in TAPS.

Best wishes,

**Walt Savage**, Green Mountain, NC.

\* \* \* \* \*

Greetings: 6 June 2005

Thanks for the good work *(on the newsletter)*.

I'm sorry our trip to San Diego fell through. From the report in the newsletter, *(I can tell)* it was a grand event.

Thanks again,

**Gail Edwards**, Redondo Beach, CA

\* \* \* \* \*

I enjoy the newsletter and reading about the Wing and all the personnel I knew. Thanks.

**Larry L. Smith**, Sand Springs, OK June 2005

\* \* \* \* \*

## ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

Thanks for sending the newsletter. I enjoyed it.  
My late husband, George, would be so pleased  
you folks have kept the reunions going.

He was responsible for the first one held in El Paso, TX, many moons ago (1970). He planned it from Florida and about 80 people attended.

Sincerely,

**Rita K. Hanson**, Largo, FL June 2005

\* \* \* \* \*

Errol and Max: June 2005

Great job with the newsletter.

Sorry I'm late with my dues, enclosed for the next three years. Thanks for not dropping me from the mailing list.

**Bob Brown**, Raven, Dalzell, SC.

\* \* \* \* \*

Robb:

I live in Charlotte, NC, with my bride of 33 years, **Carole**. While reading the obits (*in the local paper*) yesterday I saw an "In Memoriam" (with a picture in 'wheel hat') for **Tom Hoose** (died: Sept 1, 1966).

I called the only Hoose in the phone book and it was Tom's mother. I related my fond memories of Tom and she appreciated it greatly.

Always remember: life contracts, and death is expected, but we were young and soldiers once.

**Brian McManus**, Charlotte, NC

(From an e-mail 2 Sep 2005)

\* \* \* \* \*

*Editor's plea: If any members wish to contribute letters, stories and articles, please send them to me. If events occur in your area that you think would be of interest to the general readership, mail or e-mail the pertinent details, and include the names of those Association members who attend. Names are news. The only way to broaden our coverage is to get input from 'out there'.*

Thanks, and **Videmus Omnia**, Max

(Contributions may be edited for content, readability, and spacing.)

\* \* \* \* \*

They are unisex, so get one for your spouse, significant other, or family members, the dog even. They are terrific gifts. One more way to identify with your Association and "show the logo" at appropriate functions, on the golf course, wherever.

Here come the holiday, so help the family out with a large hint (*wink, wink*) that an Association shirt and/or cap would be just the thing. Take the stress out of buying for the ol' geezer. Hey, beats that ceramic dust-gatherer you got last year, right?

After reunion and summer sales, the 1 October shirt inventory by sizes is: small-1; medium-4; large-6; XL-4; XXL-2; XXXL-0. **We can always reorder more of any size, as needed.**

**Cost is still \$25 per shirt.**

There are 11 **golf/ballcaps** on hand. They are **royal blue** with the dual shield logo on the front and adjustable back strap. **They go for \$7 each.**

**The items can be viewed in color** on the Association web site at [www.55srwa.org](http://www.55srwa.org), and click on the **Clothing Sales** link.

*Your Board at work. Most of them wearing Association logo shirts.*



*Pictured L to R: Thomas, Gyulavics, Ross, Maloney, Pizzo, Adams, Griffin, Hoover, Moore.*

Anyone desiring to purchase either or both can send an e-mail to: [MaxMoore55@aol.com](mailto:MaxMoore55@aol.com); phone: (402) 291-8272; or write to: 201 Basswood Court, Bellevue, NE, 68005-2001

**There are charges for postage to be added** to the individual item costs: \$7 for two shirts; \$6 if both a shirt and cap are ordered; \$5 for a shirt only; \$3 for a cap only.

**Checks for the full amount of your order should be made payable to the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association, or to Max Moore.**



## THE ASSOCIATION TIE

After the original order of over 330 ties was sold, there was such a demand to continue this new Association symbol that Jim Thomas picked up the baton from Sam Pizzo, the original 'regimental tie' vendor. After the "Tales" and San Diego reunion sales, 44 ties remain available, so get 'em now!

The tie is a distinguished blue and red striped design with the Association's dual shield logo prominently displayed in the tie's center. A fine gold line defines every fourth blue/red stripe.



The price is \$20 each, which includes shipping/postage. You will want one to show the 'regimental tie' at appropriate events.

They make great gifts, and the ol' man is hard to buy for, so suggest to the family that you would like one for Christmas, your birthday, Father's Day, whatever.

Contact Jim at JThomas927@aol.com, or write him at 4418 Anchor Mill Dr, Bellevue, NE 68123-1168. Make checks payable to the **55SRW Association**.



## MEMORIAL COINS

The coins shown below (*actual size: 1½ in diameter*) were produced expressly for the purpose

of providing them to Association members at the September 2003 reunion as a memento.

Those who did **not** receive one as yet, and want to have a Memorial Coin, **contact** Errol Hoberman (SAC-EWO@mchsi.com, or 6441 Avenida De Galvez, Navarre, FL 32566-8911); or Bill Ernst (BillErnst@aol.com, or 410 Greenbriar Ct, Bellevue, NE 68005). One memorial coin will be mailed to you **free of charge**. Additional coins are available for \$5 each.

Ernst and Jim Maloney still have a cache of coins minted for the 1996 Strat Recon Reunion held in Omaha in 1996 (*not shown*). They are freebies. Anyone interested in securing those, contact Bill or Jim. (*See Directory, page 3*)



Front



Back



## SPARKLY 55<sup>TH</sup> PINS



(Shown as near actual size)

As a direct result of newsletter notices, the above pins have sold at a steady pace to **55SRWA** members all over the country. They are quite in evidence at social occasions in and around Offutt on ladies of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing**, and at recent Association reunions.

You can acquire one for that special lady in your life to wear at any appropriate occasion.

The Association does **not** sell these pins and receives **no** money. But, as a service for those who wish to possess same: **Erwin's Jewelers, Frank Kumor**, proprietor, in Olde Town Bellevue, has an

inventory and **you can purchase directly from the store.**

Send requests to 223 W. Mission Ave, Bellevue, NE; or call: (402) 291-2454, or fax to (402) 293-5873 to order the pins. Costs are \$9 for the pin and \$3 for shipping.

\* \* \* \* \*

**YOUR 55<sup>TH</sup> SRW ASSN  
WEB SITE  
www.55srwa.org**

The Association web site is an integral and vital part of the Association's line of communications. If you have not already done so, you are urged to check it out.

Everything you want to know about the Association is there: **constitution, bylaws**; officers and bios; membership form, library, picture gallery, bulletin board, and links to other associated and interesting sites.

**Info and updates on the next reunion, other events and important bulletins on any projects in progress are posted.** Also, there is e-mail traffic on subjects of interest to members.

Webmeister Griffin and his creative cyber-cohort, **Dave Johnson**, maintain and update the site so as not to get stale.

Jim Maloney has agreed to become the new webmaster. He will be getting transition training from Grif as he and Dave gradually retire from maintaining the site as they have so brilliantly done since its inception in 1996.

**They are always looking for new and fresh ideas. Inputs from members are encouraged and welcome. Send them pictures, war stories, anything you want to share with the Association.**

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**REUNIONS**

\* \* \* \* \*

**82<sup>nd</sup> SRS REUNION CRUISE  
4-11 FEBRAURY 2006**

Former Hoggies and friends are going cruising for the third time. This one is from Galveston, TX,

from 4-11 February into the Western Caribbean via Princess Cruise Lines' Grand Princess liner. Ports of call will be Belize City, Majahual (Costa Maya), Grand Cayman, and Cozumel.

**Robb and Shirley Hoover** have once again coordinated the arrangements and 90 recon folks are already on board.

It is not too late!! You can still sign up. \$500 down per couple on a credit card will hold the reservations until final payment is due 1 November.

Bookings can be made with **Tiffani McFarland** of the Rose Alston Travel agency of Fairfield, CA. Call toll free 1-866-531-5514; e-mail [tmvacations@yahoo](mailto:tmvacations@yahoo). Or contact Robb at [RobbHoover@aol.com](mailto:RobbHoover@aol.com), ph: 402-292-6616, and he will send you the particulars.

\* \* \* \* \*

**343<sup>rd</sup> STRAT RECON SQUADRON  
10-12 MAY 2006**

Former members of the 343SRS will convene at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Wichita, KS. It is located at 5805 W. Kellogg, just a few miles from the Mid Continent Airport, and with access by I-235 or US 400 (US54). Rate is \$71 per night and includes a hot breakfast. All events will be held at the hotel.

Registration fee is \$50 per person and includes the buffet dinner Friday night, 12 May. There will be a hospitality room and open bar from 4-6 pm.

**Paul Dolby** is chairman for the reunion. He can be reached at 260-356-1761, e-mail: [paul343rdsrs@yahoo.com](mailto:paul343rdsrs@yahoo.com), or write to: 1211 Riverside Dr., Huntington, IN, 46750, to get more details.

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHO SHOT WHAT?**



Picture credits to: Embassy Suites for the hotel shots; Dave Johnson for the Old Crow; Kovacs for the monument and bricks pix; **Gerry Pritchard**, the Award/Bell; Moore, for the cemetery flag pole, the

**55SRW** shield, and Koziol/book; Jim Thomas for the plaque; **Pat Gros**, the Board at work; Pizzo for the tie; Maloney, the coin; Beth Kelley, the sparkly pin; the E-4B from the Air Force Link.

\* \* \* \* \*

## E – NEWSLETTER

Association members in good standing who so desire can receive the newsletter via electronic transmission. **To get on the members only e-mail roster, send current address to SAC-EWO@mchsi.com. (Yes, you read this earlier.)**

Or go to: [www.55srwa.org](http://www.55srwa.org) for full instructions on how to read and/or download the e-newsletter.

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## SECDEF LOVES THE E-4

*Edited from NewsMax.com Wires  
2 August 2005*

WASHINGTON – **Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld** likes to take his office with him and stay connected to important events when he flies overseas to visit with troops and confer with US and allied military and civilian officials.

Rumsfeld's "flying Pentagon office" of choice is an Air Force E-4B aircraft, a specially modified Boeing 747-200 four-engine jet. Known as the National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC), the plane boasts sophisticated communications equipment and can be refueled in flight.

The commander of the NAOC, Army **Col David L. Molinelli**, pointed out on July 24, during Rumsfeld's recent trip to Central Asia and Iraq, that use of the E-4 enables the Secretary to conduct a variety of secure communications with senior government and military officials on the ground.

The NAOC is a joint-service organization headquartered at Offutt AFB, NE, with the E4Bs and Air Force flight crews being assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Command and Control Sqd (1ACCS) of [55th Wing](#) there.

"We have the mission of the backup to the National Military Command Center in the Pentagon" in case of a national emergency, Molinelli explained. "We also provide support to the SECDEF for his travel when we have aircraft available to do so."

The E-4B has "a more robust communications platform" than other available aircraft, Molinelli

noted, including video-teleconferencing capability that provides Rumsfeld with "a link back to his office and his experts" at the Pentagon.

The aircraft's capability to be refueled in flight can save the Secretary "almost a day of travel" when he's making some long-distance trips, the colonel said. "If we had to land somewhere and refuel, it would add at least three hours to the flight," AF **LtCol Bill Zehner**, a 1ACCS instructor pilot, added.

The E-4B crew also includes flight attendants who prepare and serve food and beverages, and are responsible for much more, said AF **TSgt Kris D. Laeding**, the chief attendant.

"We also take care of safety," said Laeding, "We're in charge of the emergency equipment." The attendants also operate the aircraft's doors, she noted, and transact passport and visa business with foreign travel officials at the plane's ports-of-call.

"We're the 'eyes and ears' for the main deck of the aircraft, where the crew and passengers sit," Laeding explained. All meals served on board are prepared with fresh ingredients by the crew in the E-4B's versatile galley, she noted.

The original E-4A model was fielded in the mid-1970s to replace previous aircraft used to provide an airborne national military command center in the event of nuclear war, said AF **MSgt Gregory S. Grieser**, superintendent of the E-4B's airborne communications. The upgraded E-4B was introduced in 1980.



The Cold War ended in 1991, but the four E-4Bs in the fleet fly on with state-of-the-art equipment to "provide all the communications, secure and nonsecure, to support the Joint Staff in a time of conflict, so they can support our national leaders," Grieser, explained.

Since 1994, with the approval of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, E-4Bs can be deployed to provide support Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) requests for assistance during natural disasters. (*American Forces Press Service*)



## 55<sup>th</sup> FLIES MISSIONS IN KATRINA'S AFTERMATH

Air Force assets were being called upon to serve in many ways. An OC-135 Open Skies aircraft and crews from the 45<sup>th</sup> RS of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing at Offutt AFB, NE, has been used to capture aerial imagery of the Gulf Region to survey hurricane damage. These images were used by the FEMA to quickly assess the status of roads and evacuation routes, and evaluate the extent of damage to critical facilities such as oil rigs, hospitals, and military installations.



## 55<sup>th</sup> WING HALL OF FAME

In 2003 the 55<sup>th</sup>SRW Association assumed the administrative lead for the selection process of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Hall of Fame. Nominees are solicited each year for induction. Historically, the inductees are announced annually at the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Birthday Ball.

That process has been an evolving one for a number of years, and this year Association presidential appointed screening and selection committees will meet to complete the process to name this year's inductees.



## HALL OF FAME RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Administered by

### 55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association

This document establishes the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Hall of Fame (HoF) recognition program as administered by the 55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association (55thSRWA or Association). It prescribes the procedures for nomination and selection of members to the HoF.

**Objective:** To recognize those former members of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* whose mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices stand out while performing or providing direct support to the mission of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

**General:** On behalf of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing, the HoF program recognizes former members of *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* for significant mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices in support of the mission of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*. HoF induction will occur on an annual basis, with nominations accepted from July through October (*when the Ball is in Jan or Feb*) of each year. A maximum of two (2) awards (a crew will be considered as one award) may be given in one year. Consideration of nominees does **not** mandate selection to the HoF. In coordination with the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing, the newest inductees selected for the HoF may be announced during the annual 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Birthday Ball or other venue as determined by the 55thSRWA in coordination with the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing.

**Selection Process:** The HoF final selection will be the end result of two processes:

1. The HoF Screening Committee will receive and review all nomination packages and forward those to be considered by the Selection Committee. **Nominees for the HoF** recognition will be former military members who have served as members of any of the following units: 55<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Group, 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, 55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing and/or 55<sup>th</sup> Wing. These units are herein referred to collectively as the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*. The HoF Screening Committee will be chaired by an Omaha area-based member of the Board and be comprised of at least four Association members in good standing, one of which will be the 55 Wing Vice Commander or his designated representative.
2. The Selection Committee will consider all nomination packages forwarded by the Screening Committee and make the final selection recommendations to the 55<sup>th</sup>SRWA Board of Directors for their approval. The Selection Committee will be comprised of Chairman of the Awards Committee, Chairman of Screening Committee and not less than three, or more than five, Omaha area-based Association members in good standing, one of which will be the 55 Wing Vice Commander or his designated representative.

### Eligibility

1. Must have been assigned to the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.
2. Mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices must have been accomplished while assigned to and performing the mission of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*; **or** having been assigned to the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*, the mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or

sacrifices must have had a direct, significant and sustained impact on the accomplishment of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's* mission.

- Nominee **cannot** be on active duty.

*James W. Thomas*

President, **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association**

### NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Nomination packages will be comprised of the following items:

- Nominating group or individual:

Name:

Address:

Phone number/email:

- Nominee(s):

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

If nominee(s) is/are deceased, please provide name, address, and phone number of an appropriate family member who can represent the individual (if possible) at the HoF induction ceremony.

- Photo of nominee (color preferred)

The following will be in narrative format:

- Assignment Dates – Provide assignment history to the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* and/or assignment history and nature of relationship in direct support to the mission of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

- Narrative – Detail specific mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices to the legacy of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

- Nominations must be signed by nominator and one additional individual who was either witness to the acts, unyielding service, etc., or someone who can attest to the validity of the nomination.** In the absence of an additional signature, the nominator must provide supporting documentation wherever possible to ensure the HoF selection committee can be convinced of the authenticity of the facts forwarded in the nomination.

- Submit nominations to: the Screening Committee Chairman (To be appointed each year by the Association president.) **Kevin Todd** will chair the committee this year. Nominations packages with supporting documentation should be sent to him at 3304 Blackhawk Dr., Bellevue, NE, 68123.

- Nominations may also be submitted electronically to: guyn5gals@msn.com, or JThomas927@aol.com.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

The **55 SRWA** administers this program.

#### Nomination schedule:

First week in October -- Process review and call for nominations.

NLT 15 January 2006 -- All nomination packages are due to Screening Committee.

NLT 1 March 2006 -- Nominee packages to Selection Committee.

The Chairman and Members of the Screening Committee - Screens all nominations for eligibility.

**The Selection Committee** - Makes final selection of HoF Inductees.

The **55<sup>th</sup> SRWA** President:

a. Prepares "Call for Nominations" memo for inclusion in the **55<sup>th</sup>SRWA** newsletter and web site

b. After the Selection Committee has finalized the selection of any new inductees, the President will forward this information to the Board of Directors for concurrence.

c. Informs the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Commander of the inductees.

d. In consonance with the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** POC (normally Protocol and Wing Birthday Ball Project Officer), coordinates presentations at the annual **Wing** Birthday Ball, or other event or venue as coordinated between the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** and the **55<sup>th</sup> SRWA**.

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### ASSN ROSTER UPDATES

If you have moved recently, or changed **any** of your contact information (area codes, e-mail address, etc.), please relay and update same to Errol Hoberman **soon**.

He will be working toward compiling a new Association roster for publication next year, and it is essential your data be correct and up to date. For your convenience, use the form on page 19, as needed.

And we thank you.

\* \* \* \* \*



***MEMBERSHIP AND INFORMATION UPDATE FORM***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
eMail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a prior member or a friend of the 55th Strat Recon Wing? Member \_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_

Are you a current/prior member or a friend of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing? Member \_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_

When were you a member of the 55th Strat Recon Wing or 55<sup>th</sup> Wing? \_\_\_\_\_

Which 55th Unit(s) were you a member? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you on active duty? \_\_\_ If so, with what unit? \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

What is your present occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a widow? \_\_\_ (*Widows of deceased members receive free lifetime membership.*)

***Please duplicate and send to a 55th Friend/Member.***

Return this form with dues, if applicable,  
(currently \$10 per calendar year or **\$25 for 3 years**) to:

**55 SRW ASSOCIATION  
6441 Avenida De Galvez, Navarre, FL 32566**