

# Videmus Omnia

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



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2015

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Heartland

I hope that each and every one was blessed with a joyous and restful holiday season with family and friends.

It's another slow start on the New Year here, and again with the customary arctic air mass and the accompanying near zero temps. It will not last long, however. The weather patterns have changed here since the sixties and seventies. Winters are not as cold, dark and lengthy now. Must be that climate thing.



Planning for our next reunion is coming along nicely. The necessary basics have been locked down and are provided for your initial planning. We are returning to San Antonio after a reunion there in 1985. A lot has changed since then, but one thing has not. It's a great town to have a gathering. Lots to see and do, and as always, we have all the ingredients for another grand reunion. Nobody needs to entertain us. The 55<sup>th</sup> brings its own party...us. Let's make it another great get together.

A topic always worthy of consideration is membership. The hard facts about our membership are within the Membership Report. The numbers each year look a bit dubious after the turn of the year. However, it has been the case so far that a majority of the delinquent members just simply forget to reup prior to the new year.

We have already started, since 1 January, getting dues paid by the tardy 183. We have been averaging about a 70% pick up rate on the delinquents. That can be, I think, honestly described as a "slow, steady leak" in the tire. Just think where we would be if half

of our membership recruited one new member, or got someone to rejoin the **Association**. We would be back to 85% of our all-time high. I know that is a tall order. But, it is fun just thinking about it.

I request all members to help us with certain individual information the **Association** needs to maintain. The **Association** is a 501(C)19 veterans organization, federal tax exempt. In order to take maximum advantage of various tax exempt provisions in the law, **95% of our members must be veterans**.

We updated the membership form in 2012 to include your military service information: years of service, and in which units of the 55<sup>th</sup> you served. This is our way to maintain the best data without privacy concerns being an issue. If the IRS audits us, we can demonstrate that we gave this matter our honest attention to document our veterans, and are in compliance with the tax code. Please help us in this matter.

If you have not filled out a membership application dated May 2012 recently, or just do not remember giving this data to us, please use the form on page 15, fill it out updating your latest data and mail it to Mike Cook, P O Box 13165, Offutt AFB, NE 68113. Thank you.

I am often asked by veterans of the 55<sup>th</sup> and of the Air Force. What's it like today? Are they still doing....? Often the discussion gets around to "...It's just not the same any more" and "Boy, that's different."

Of course we have all heard the expression, "The more things change, the more they remain the same." There is one thing I know for sure, having served, retired, and now, still being a part of the 55<sup>th</sup>, one thing that has not changed for all the generations that the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association represents: **dedication**.

That story is best represented by the stained glass window in the west wall of the SAC Chapel, best



viewed from inside the chapel on a sunny day at about 1600 hrs. The story is priceless and continues for all generations.

This sacrifice and dedication continues in the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* today where the Wing has had another

fantastic year of breaking records of service, demonstrating excellence in all challenges, and continuing to serve silently at the leading edge of history.

The legacy of outstanding service to the nation is evident in the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** today: **Great pride in service to the best wing in the US Air Force.**

All the best in the New Year and, as always, Y'all be careful out there, now.

*Videmus Omnia, Jim.*



**NEXT REUNION  
55<sup>th</sup> WING ASSOCIATION  
SAN ANTONIO, TX  
21-24 OCTOBER 2015  
EMBASSY SUITES RIVERWALK**



***MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW AND PLAN TO ATTEND YET ANOTHER OUTSTANDING REUNION.***

The hotel contract has been signed and sealed.

The reunion rate is based on double or single occupancy at \$179, plus 16.75 tax = \$209. To make your reservations call 1-800-362-2779, and use the code 55W or 55 Wing reunion. Reservations can be booked on-line at [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com) reference the site and code in box indicated.

You can get a look at this impressive hotel by going to [embassysuites3.hilton.com](http://embassysuites3.hilton.com), and then in the find a hotel block, put San Antonio Riverwalk to get a visual tour and loads of other information.

Embassy Suites offer a complimentary cooked breakfast and a manager's 'happy hour'.

**Cutoff date for reservations at the venue is 30 September 2015. A complete registration package**

**will be in the next newsletter, circa June/July with a lot more details.**

Chairman is **Jeff "Buffalo" Herd**, a former **55 Wing** Operations Group Commander, and is a member of the **Association** Board of Directors.

Anyone wanting to volunteer to assist with the many and various committees should contact Jeff at [Buffaloherd14@yahoo.com](mailto:Buffaloherd14@yahoo.com), or phone: 719-963-2150. **John Olivo** and **John Hansen** are two such stalwarts already.

There are numerous **55<sup>th</sup>** alumni in the general San Antonio area (*and we know who you are and where you live*).

Updated info, including events and agenda all TBD, will be posted on the web site as it becomes available. The Board meeting will likely be on Wednesday, 21 October 2015, and the general membership meeting on Saturday morning.



**55<sup>TH</sup> WING COMMANDER'S  
YEAR END ADDRESS**

Greetings *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* Alumni:  
22 December 2014

I am honored to address all of you as 2014 concludes. It has been a busy and successful year in the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** as our Airmen continued to make an impact across all regions of the globe.

The need for Intelligence,

Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR), Command and Control (C2), and Electronic Attack in today's worldwide geopolitical environment has never been greater, and our **Wing** continues to be tasked to participate in multiple operations.

In fact, over a four-month period during the spring and summer of 2014, all seven of our aircraft types were simultaneously deployed on 57 of those days. This level of tasking for our **Wing** is unprecedented during my time here (*since June 2013*), and according to many of the "seasoned" Airmen in our Wing, that intensity is not something they can recall experiencing in past years.



Overall, **55th Wing** aircraft flew 4,217 sorties totaling 25,991 hours in FY2014, of which 1,126 sorties, and 9,679 hours, were combat missions in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR), a region in which our **Wing** continues to maintain a presence for the 24th consecutive year. Our RC-135 Variants (COBRA BALL, COMBAT SENT, OPEN SKIES, and CONSTANT PHOENIX) were deployed 925 days in FY2014, encompassing 27 deployments.

In addition to maintaining 24/7 nuclear C2 support, the E-4B flew Defense Secretary **Chuck Hagel** on six missions to 18 countries. Additionally, our Electronic Combat Group Airmen at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, continued their presence in the CENTCOM AOR by flying 373 EC-130 COMPASS CALL combat sorties.

**55th Wing** Airmen were actively involved in many of the engagements you likely saw on the news this year. You may have seen one of the several news stories about foreign fighters intercepting our aircraft -- both in the Pacific and Europe. I'm sure this reminds many of you of precarious experiences during the Cold War.

I can assure you our aircrews are trained and equipped to an exceptional level, and will always take the actions necessary to ensure the safety of their aircraft and crew, while still accomplishing the mission -- just as you did with great skill and professionalism.

Recognizing that the **55th Wing** is actively engaged in operations around the world, Air Combat Command (ACC) bestowed the **55th Wing** with the Meritorious Unit Award for the two-year period, 2013-2014. This award was given to just two other ACC Wings. A hard-earned, and certainly well-deserved, accomplishment for the men and women of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

In conclusion, we are proud to carry the torch that you many of you lit and continued to fuel for over seventy years. The men and women representing the **55th Wing** today are an amazing group and continue to carry the legacy that our alumni established.

Thank you again for your teamwork and support. I hope to see many of you at the **55th Wing** Birthday Ball on 16 May 2015. Until then, have a safe and enjoyable holiday season, and an outstanding 2015.

*Videmus Omnia!*  
**BrigGen Greg Guillot**  
Commander, **55th Wing**



## DIRECTORS DIRECTORY

### Association Business/Policy/Issues:

#### President **Jim Thomas**

4418 Anchor Mill  
Bellevue, NE 68123-1168  
E-mail: *(new)* **JThomas927@cox.net**

#### Vice President **Ricky McMahon**

14325 Orlando Road  
Nokesville, VA 20181  
E-mail: potomacpistol@gmail.com

### Membership/Dues/Changes of Address:

#### Treasurer **Michael Cook**

3204 Rahn Blvd  
Bellevue, NE 68123  
E-mail: Michael.Cook@cox.net

#### Secretary **Trish Seinwill**

9335 Branchside Lane  
Fairfax, VA, 22031  
E-mail: pseinwill@yahoo.com

#### Newsletter Editor **Max Moore**

201 Basswood Court  
Bellevue, NE 68005-2001  
E-mail: MaxMoore55@aol.com

### Association Web Page Comments/Ideas:

#### Webmaster **Jim Maloney**

7908 Kona Circle  
Papillion, NE 68046-5619  
E-mail: jim@maloney.com

### Other Members of the Board of Directors:

**Sam Pizzo, Bill Ernst, Errol Hoberman, Don Griffin, Fox Censullo, George Ross, Pete Glenboski, Kevin Todd, Don Kelly, Paul Jeanes, Val Dugie, Jeff Herd, Colonel Mohan Krishna. Active Duty: MSgt Rick M. Brown, MSgt Vanessa Saul Johnston.** *(See note following.)*

### Appointed Awards Chairman

**Hamilton Kennedy**  
13701 S. 129<sup>th</sup> St  
Springfield, NE 68059  
HHAAMMKK@aol.com

### Appointed Historian:

**William (Bill) Sargent**

2711 Northwood Circle  
Papillion, NE, 68133  
William488@cox.net

### Appointed Enlisted Affairs Liaison:

**Elvio Palmieri**  
1060 Highland Avenue  
Lake Forest, IL 60045-3873  
Elvio13@comcast.net

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The **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Commander nominated, and the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association** Board of Directors approved, the addition of two new activity duty members to the Board.

President Jim Thomas announced on 31 August 2014 that **MSgt Rick N. Brown** was nominated to fill a vacancy on the Board. The approved action was effective 8 September 2014.

President Thomas also announced on 19 September 2014 that **MSgt Vanessa Saul (now Johnston)** was nominated to replace **MSgt Jeanette Johnson** due to her PCA. Both were effective on 1 October 2014.

MSgt Brown is a career jet propulsion technician and crew chief. His current position is Production Superintendent in the **55<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**.

MSgt Johnston's career has been in the cryptology and linguist field. She is currently serving as Superintendent for the **55<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Support Squadron**.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 31 December 2014, the treasury had an account balance (rounded) of \$48,000.

A portion of the money in the account comes from dues paid in advance. Therefore, we must keep money in reserve for each year to which the dues applies.

**Some members have paid as far ahead as 2020, 2022, and even 2024! Now that is loyalty and optimism, folks.**

**It is never too soon to renew.**

Although the **Association** is solvent, we have expenses, obligations, and bills to pay, such as this



newsletter. **So, please pay your dues promptly, or early and often.** Thank you very much.

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Remember that the **Association** is a **non-profit IRS 501(C)19 veterans, federal tax exempt organization**. As such, you may **donate** additional funds to the treasury, or in the memory of a comrade taking that final flight. Those **donations (NOT DUES)** are tax deductible under an IRS ruling for the organization. Every amount, large or small, is very much appreciated. It happens.

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There have been a few requests for us to offer PayPal as a method of paying membership dues. Chartered by the Board of Directors a study was conducted into the feasibility of offering PayPal. The use of PayPal Pro would cost the **Association** - \$30.00 per month plus a 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction. Therefore, we maintain the current way of doing business. The payment of dues and any donation will be by check or cash via US Mail or in person.

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**There were 570 members in good standing as of 31 December 2014, compared with 541 on 30 May 2014, a net gain even though there were those whose dues (or person) expired.**

Through 'friendly reminders' and such, several members have returned to the fold, including lapsed members from years past, and a few new sign-ups.

Of those 570 members, 183 members had their membership **expire** at midnight on **31 December 2014**.

Those members have **until 1 April 2015** to renew. Should they opt not to renew, they will be **deleted** from the membership data base and directory. **We hope that will be a very low number, like zero.**

**Retaining members, and recruiting new ones, is a recurring and never ending priority.**

While not actual members, about 170 widows receive the newsletter gratis. As always, they are welcome to any and all **Association** functions.

Fifty-one **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** units and offices are sent the newsletter for PR purposes, and to keep them

connected with the **Association**. Occasionally, this effort has a payoff of exposure for the **Association** and new active duty members.

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### WHEN DO MY DUES EXPIRE?

That is the most asked question of the membership chairman. That date is on the address label to the RIGHT of your name in bold print: 20XX. Please make a note.

You can now go to the **Members Only** section of the Association web site and see a listing of members and dues expiration year.

*You must be a dues paid, member-in-good-standing to gain the password and access.*

If you do **not** know your dues expiration date, to inquire on same, please e-mail **Michael.Cook@cox.net**; or drop him a note at the following address to get an update on your membership status. **When in doubt, send money.**

**Please pay your dues prior to 31 December of your expiration year, but no later than 31 March of the next year.**

Mail to: **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association**  
ATTN: Michael J. Cook  
PO Box 13165  
Offutt AFB, NE 68113  
\* \* \* \* \*

There is a **membership/information update form at page 15 of this newsletter, as well as on the Association web site.**

Please use that form any time you pay dues, and/or to report any address or other changes in your contact information. **That is the best way to ensure we have your latest information on file.**

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE SENT TO YOUR HOME OF RECORD. Please keep us informed of any changes in your address or other contact information.** Invariably we get returned mail because of outdated addresses. Third class mail is not forwarded. **Please help us stay current.**

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**A new Association directory is planned for publication June/July this year.**

Thus, it is **imperative** to update your latest contact information, **especially** if you have relocated, changed your e-address, etc., within the past year.

If you own two homes (or more), please give us **the** address you want any **Association** correspondence mailed to, and go into our data base.

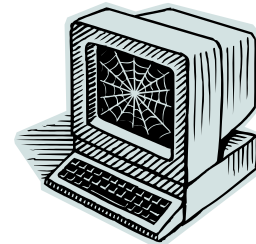
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## YOUR 55<sup>TH</sup> WING ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

**www.55wa.org**

The **Association** web site continues to be an integral and vital part of the **Association's** communications. It is where one can keep informed between newsletters, and where news is reported and updated in a timely manner.

In the last quarter of 2014 there were nearly 1000 hits/visits.



It is not uncommon for past **55<sup>th</sup>** members, or friends and families, to find the web site after an internet search, then reconnect/reengage friends and comrades from their days with the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth**.

The **BX** section is where to find how to purchase the **Association** polo shirts, ties and other items.

Articles are added to the **Memory Lane** section as they are submitted. Check it out periodically for the recent tales. Please contribute **your own** to share with others.

Also, be sure to check out, contribute, and "Like" the *Facebook* page at <http://www.facebook.com/55thAssociation>.

Check the web site regularly for the latest information on the next reunion, Birthday Ball, and other significant events.

There are posted photos from the April reunion. Plus, there is a **Gallery** with a plethora of pictures: crews, planes, and other good stuff.

An added feature is in the **Members Only** page, where any member can check on his/her **DUES EXPIRATION DATE**. This area is updated periodically and may not reflect recent renewals.

Another: On the front page is an area for members to enter their email address, and then they will be notified when there's been a change or update to the web site.

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Any member who wishes to read and/or download future **Association** newsletters from the web site, rather than receive them by snail-mail, can notify **Michael Cook** to **remove** his/her name from the newsletter **mailing list**.

This could save the **Association** some mailing costs, while allowing members to read it as soon as it is published, as well as read it wherever in the world one might be at anytime.

Thus far, that number is **not** significant.

Question arises: "How will I know when a new issue is published?" Historically, about six months from the last one.

Newsletters are usually published about four months before a reunion, a couple of months after a reunion, and about six months from that one.

Based on that 'schedule', you just have to make periodic look-ins at the web site to find out. In order to do so, you will need to visit the **Members Only** page on the web site, and read the newsletter, or download it from there. **Simply request the username and password from the web-guy and you're all set.**

*You must be a dues paid, member-in-good-standing to gain the password and access that section.*

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## **FIGHTIN' FIFTY-FIFTH COMMANDER PROMOTED**

**LtGeneral Lori J. Robinson**, (then) Vice Commander of Air Combat Command, presents Brigadier General **Gregory Guillot**, 55th Wing commander, with his one-star flag during his pin-on ceremony 8 August 2014 at Offutt Air Force Base, NE.



Guillot was promoted brigadier general during the ceremony with an official date of August 14, 2014.

*(Article edited from Offutt AFB web site. Photo by Josh Plueger, 55th Wing Public Affairs)*

*(Note: General Robinson was named Commander of Pacific Air Forces effective 16 October 2014)*

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## **55th WING HALL OF FAME**



*The wall as shown full length, located just outside the 55th Wing Command Section*

Nominations **were** due to the **55th Wing Association Awards Committee** by the end of December 2014.

The selection process is in work and will be completed. The inductee(s) will be announced, and informed, with sufficient lead time to allow for notification and planning to attend the induction ceremony on Friday, 15 May, (*time and place TBD*), and to attend the Birthday Ball.

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*This plaque is posted above the mural at the center of the Hall of Fame plaques of inductees.*

*It reads:*

**THIS 55th WING WALL OF FAME HONORS  
THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE FIGHTIN'**

**55<sup>TH</sup> WHO HAVE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED INCREDIBLE PROFESSIONALISM AND DEDICATION IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSIONS WE HAVE BEEN TASKED TO PERFORM BY OUR NATION. THEY REPRESENT THE UNTOLD NUMBER OF VALIANT, DEDICATED, AND PATRIOTIC WARFIGHTERS WHO HAVE SERVED THIS GREAT NATION, AND THIS WING, WITH DISTINCTION. THIS WALL OF FAME SYMBOLIZES AN ILLUSTRIOUS HERITAGE AND LEGACY OF WHICH ALL MEMBERS OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup> WING, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD.**

**VIDEMUS OMNIA  
DEDICATED 31 JANUARY 2003**

*Originally written upon request from the Wing by LtCol (Retired) Max R. Moore with meaningful editing by (then) 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander BGen Craig Koziol*

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**55<sup>th</sup> WING 2015  
BIRTHDAY BALL**

The 55<sup>th</sup> Wing will hold its 37<sup>th</sup> annual Birthday Ball, Saturday, 16 May 2015 at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in LaVista.

*(In 2014 the gala event was the grand finale' for the reunion last April.)*

It will be hosted by BGen Guillot, 55<sup>th</sup>

Wing Commander, and his wife, **Caroline**

The Ball will celebrate the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unit from its roots in the activation of the 55<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Group at Hamilton Field, CA, in January 1941, during World War II.

The theme is “*Out of Many, We Are One*”, with the overriding idea being wing unity for the diverse missions of the ***Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth.***

Guest speaker TBD.

**Dave Webber**, a local TV personality, will be asked to be the master of ceremonies. Dave served four years in the AF and was a member of the SAC Elite Guard in the early 1960s.



The program is highlighted by the presentation of Hall of Fame inductee(s), and the 2014 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association Award for Excellence announcement and presentation.

This year’s planning committee is headed by **Capt Michael Skarda** of the 97<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Sqd. The committee and workers are all volunteers who plan and execute this important event.

*A special room rate at the Embassy Suites is in the works. Check in on the Association web site for any updates on this event.*

The **Association** donates \$1000 every year to help defray the tickets for younger airmen. Moore and Ernst represent the **Association** as advisors to that committee.

In today's climate of sequestration, the world needs to know the following fact (*it isn't new info, has always been so*): **The 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Birthday Ball pays for itself. NO taxpayer dollars finance the event. It is paid for with 'ticket' sales, fundraising, sponsors, and donors.**

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**55<sup>TH</sup> WING ASSOCIATION  
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

Once the nominations are submitted and selection process completed, the 2014 winner will be presented at the annual Birthday Ball.

*Shown at right is the actual trophy which stands over four feet tall. A smaller representative plaque is presented to the winner. It is housed in the General Russell Dougherty Conference Center lobby at Offutt, a high visibility area.*



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*Learn from the mistakes of others. You don't live long enough to make them all yourself.*

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## MEMORIAL BRICK ORDERS: STILL CAN DO

Fellow Members:

Bricks that were ordered in 2014 are in place in the memorial patio. An updated diagram of the patio layout is posted on the **Association** web site.

There may be some **55th** veterans and/or family members, friends, associates, who want to order bricks for the **55th SRW** Cold War Memorial patio in the National Museum of the USAF Memorial Gardens.

**If you wish to buy a brick, or know of anyone who wants one, now is the time to place an order.**

Any new bricks will be placed when weather conditions permit next summer.

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

You can e-mail **exactly how you want your brick to read (all caps, please)** to BillErnst1@cox.net. Make your checks payable to **55 Wing Association** and mail to Bill Ernst, 410 Greenbriar Court, Bellevue, NE, 68005.

*Videmus Omnia, Bill*

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## T A P S

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**BRADY, James C.**, 79, 10 December 2014, Aurora, TX; wife **Retta**. After a tour in Viet Nam in EB-66s, “Diamond Jim” began his recon flying in the 6<sup>th</sup> SW at Eielson AFB, AK. Came to the **55th SRW** in the 2ACCS at Offutt AFB, NE, in 1971. He later was the pilot for the CINCSAC command crew for Gen Russ Dougherty.

**BROWN, Leland D.**, 74, 10 August 2014, Kingman, KS. A native of Mississippi, Lee was a RB-47 EWO in the **55th SRW** at Forbes AFB, KS, in the 1960s. After retiring to Kingman, he owned and operated a successful welding/manufacturing business for many years.

**COFIELD, Joan**, 83, 15 June 2014, Fair Oaks Ranch, TX; wife of **Ralph**, a long time **55'ther**, RB-47 EWO at Forbes, 1960s; and in RC-135s at Offutt AFB, NE, and on staff in the 1970s

**DIVER, Sandra (Johnson)**, 72, 7 September 2014; Bellevue, NE; wife of **Carl**, a former 2ACCS battle staffer at Offutt. Sandy was an AF/**55th** wife who served at Forbes, Kadena AB, Okinawa, and Offutt. She was active in squadron activities, PTA, officer wives' clubs and her church. In Bellevue, she worked as an administrative assistant for SAIC for several years.

**DROST, Mary Alice**, 91, 5 June 2014, College Station, TX. “**Reecie**”, as she was widely known, survived by **John**, they were married for nearly 70 years. The consummate AF wife, she supported his 28 year career with “grace and dignity”. A long time RB pilot at Forbes, John is a **55th Wing** Hall of Fame member. Reecie served as an officer and on boards of many officer wives' clubs. She was a beloved and dedicated mentor to younger AF wives.

**DUBE, Francis (Buck)**, 80, 29 September 2014; Bluffton, SC; wife of 39 years, **Mitzi**. Buck began his career as an RB EWO at Forbes in 1955. He was at SAC Headquarters at Offutt in 1964 and had Viet Nam tour with 7<sup>th</sup> AF. Buck had a sterling career in EWO operations at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH; at NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium; Hanscom AFB, MA; and with Lockheed for 15 years after retiring from the AF.

**JONES, Glen E.**, 78, 19 August 2014, Bellevue, NE. A veteran **55th** A&E maintenance man at Forbes in the 1960s, then an in-flight maintenance technician on the RCs at Offutt in the 1970s. Glen retired as a master sergeant, then worked as a technical representative for E-Systems for several years.

**LARSON, Loren M.**, 78, 10 September 2014, Alden, IA; wife of 58 years, **Betty**. A navigator in RCs with the 82<sup>nd</sup> SRS at Kadena in the late 1960s, Loren came to the **55th SRW** at Offutt, as a crew member and was the Chief of Mission Development when he retired in 1978. He had his own insurance agency for 20 years.

**LAWRENCE, Floyd E. (Gene)**, 79, 23 November 2014, Aurora, CO; married to **Doris** for 59 years. Gene served in the **55th** at Forbes from 1954-1964 as a bomb-navigation systems technician. An honor graduate of the NCO Academy he retired



in 1977 as a Chief MSgt. He then worked for the US Postal Service until 1997.

**MATHERS, Donald E.**, 82, 26 August 2014, Topeka, KS; married to **Rebecca** for 60 years. Don was a native Kansan who was a KC-97 navigator with the 55<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Sqd at Forbes, circa late 1950s, early 1960s. He later was in KC-135s, and then the SR-71 at Beale AFB, CA. Retiring to Topeka in 1979 after 24 AF years, he worked for Josten's Publishing until 1996.

**MULL, Raymond L.**, 91, 22 August 2014, Benton Harbor, MI. A WWII P-51 pilot with the 343<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Sqd in the 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Ray was shot down on his 13<sup>th</sup> mission and was a POW for eight months at Stalag 1 in Barth, Germany. After the war, he remained in the AF Reserves for 30 years, and was active in several veterans' organizations. Ray owned Mull Tool and Engineering Co. in Benton Harbor where he was born, raised and retired.

**ROGERS, Helen**, 82, 8 September 2014, Bossier City, LA. She was married to **Frank** for 58 years. He served in the 55<sup>th</sup> as an RC navigator and staff officer at Offutt in the 1970s.

**WELLS, Douglas D.**, 86, 5 September 2014, Bossier City, LA. Doug was a Korean War veteran who was in the 55<sup>th</sup> at Forbes in the 1960s as an RB-47 pilot. He also had a tour in Viet Nam, and retired after 22 years. His post-AF career was with the State of Louisiana for 15 years.

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**TAPS** notification of **Association** members, spouses, friends and associates should be sent to Editor Max Moore, 201 Basswood Court, Bellevue NE, 68005; or e-mail MaxMoore55@aol.com

**Please include next of kin and an address to whom an Association condolence card may be sent.**

**The date of demise, age, location; and if known, connection to the 55<sup>th</sup> - base, time frame and Air Force duty will be helpful.**

**Please note that the news in TAPS is determined and limited by how much and how accurate the given source information.**

*Prior to January 2000, just the names of those 'Gone West' were published herein, and on the Association web page, so research sources on those who were previously listed are relatively sparse.*

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## TAPS ON THE ASSN WEB SITE

The **TAPS** section has an alphabetical, as well as chronological, listing for easier access to the names and dates of those in the 55<sup>th</sup> family who have passed.



Anyone who wishes to have the name of a family member, friend, or comrade who was a former member of the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth** added to the listing can request the web-guy to do so. Please have the date of demise (*at least the year*) for placement.

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## MAIL 'N STUFF



\* \* \* \* \*

Max:

I have just finished a cover to cover reading of your last masterpiece (*June 2014, Videmus Omnia*). I have read them all. This one has the touch of the master's hand. You just get GOODER AND GOODER.

I really wanted to participate in this past reunion (*too many of my old friends are making their final journeys with ever increasing regularity*). We have a pretty good excuse for missing the joy of time with old and dear friends (*health issues*).

One more time, Max; your dedication to producing a highly professional newsletter is greatly appreciated. I look forward to each one with great anticipation.

My best to all of our friends in your area.  
Fond regards, from Bill and Lou.  
**Bill Lewis (the Elder)**, Kerrville, TX.  
(From an e-mail, 17 June 2014)

\* \* \* \* \*

Max:

Great job with the newsletter! As I've said before, it is the only publication that I read start to finish in a single sitting!

**Ron Strong**, Bellevue, NE

(From an e-mail, 18 June 2014)

\* \* \* \* \*

Max:

I want to tell you that the newsletter was great. I believe it was the best one produced so far. The reunion coverage was well done and I am really sorry I missed it.

Thanks for your super effort on the newsletter and keep up the great work.

**Steve Stevens**, Bellevue, NE

(From an e-mail, 18 June 2014)

\* \* \* \* \*

Max:

Enjoyed reading about another successful reunion. Congratulations.

Re: item on page 21 (*Hall of Fame story*): no North Korean fighters had the legs to get to the Sea of Okhotsk. I've been there; you probably have, as well. Matt (**Hobart Mattison**) was shot up off the East coast of NKorea over the Sea of Japan. The story is in my book ***I Always Wanted to Fly***.

My new book will be out next May. It has **Hack Mixson's** and **Sam Pizzo's** stories in it.

Best wishes, as always,

**Wo If Samuel**, Fairfax, VA.

(From an e-mail 16 June 2014)

(Ed note: Of course Wolf is correct. Brain cramp on my part in writing from memory about a story I know all too well. I could say I did it on purpose to see if anyone would catch it. Didn't hear from any of the actual surviving crew members, however. Ooops!?)

\* \* \* \* \*

### An Eldridge Tradition

Max:

Thought you might like to know a little tidbit that will fit into the history books.

I flew the RC-135U Combat Sent II, tail number 849, on its first deployment in 1972; my son, **Golda Jr. (Tom)** took it overseas in 1993; and now my grandson, Golda Jr's oldest son, **Joshua**, will be deploying the same bird later this year (2014).

So, we have had an Eldridge deploy Sent II every 21 years for the last 42 years.

My crew on the first deployment was: AC Golda Eldridge, CP **Denny Wilson**, N1 **Johnny Johnson**, N2 **Frank Eider**, and the R1 was **Fritz Hyde**. Good memories.

**Golda Eldridge**, Waco, TX

(From an e-mail 14 July 2014)



L-R in front of an RC at Offutt: Golda, Sr, Golda, Jr (Tom), Joshua.

(Ed note: The trio became pilots 24 years apart, assigned to 55<sup>th</sup>, joined the **Association**, setting a three generation tradition. In 2036, when Joshua, Jr, (or Golda II), becomes an Air Force pilot and joins the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing to fly an RC-135Z, I'll report that, as well. Max)

\* \* \* \* \*

Max,

Great job, as usual, with the June 2014 newsletter.

Thanks for the info about **John McKone**. He was my boss in 1980-81 when I was 3902<sup>nd</sup> /PA (*Public Affairs*).

Looks like it was a great time at the reunion. Good photos!

I finally found a copy of (*Bruce Bailey's*) *We See All* book at a used book store in Harper's Ferry, VA. It is in great shape; an original edition numbered copy, 1478. Got it for \$100 – a bargain!

Continue the great work.

Best, **Wayne Corbett**, Columbia, SC.

(From a note 3 August 2014)

(Note: Wayne is an ardent collector of books on all things SAC.)

\* \* \* \* \*

*A friend walks in when everyone else walks out.*

## AIR FORCE MAGAZINE FEATURES THE RC-135

In each monthly issue of *Air Force Magazine*, the official publication of the Air Force Association, a historic aircraft is featured on their *Airpower Classics* page, usually inside the back cover.

The September 2014 recognition was given to the ‘venerable’ RC-135. The write up featured the aircraft’s storied history and service for over five decades, and gave its specifications and variations.



Text explains that in all its variants the Rivet Joint, “rates as perhaps the most potent airborne intelligence-gathering platform in history.” Further stating the aircraft is “a force multiplier of enormous reach and capability,” particularly in today’s multiple missions and global operations. The item also listed just a few of its ‘famous fliers’, although there could have been a multitude.

*(As our web-guy observed: “Weren’t we all?”)*

\* \* \* \* \*

## NEWSLETTER INPUTS

### WELCOME

***Here is how members can help diversify the coverage in Videmus Omnia:***

***Editor’s usual plea:*** *If anyone wishes to contribute letters, true (humorous or otherwise) stories, photos and articles, please do so.*

*Send them to MaxMoore55@aol.com, or mail to the address in the directory. We encourage and welcome the input.*

\* \* \* \* \*

***When 55th events occur in your area (Florida, MD/VA/DC complex, Denver/CSprings, Texas, California, wherever) that you think would be of interest to the general readership, mail or e-mail the pertinent details, and include the names of those who arrange and attend.***

***Names are news. Use ‘em. Pictures are good.***

***The only way to broaden our coverage is to get input from the near and far reaches of Fifty-Fifth-land.***

*Please see following items as examples.*

*(Contributions may be, ..... well, of course they will be, edited for content, readability, and spacing.)*

*Thanks, and Videmus Omnia, Max.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## EAST COAST “CHAPTER”

Many east coast area alumni, including active duty, retirees and ‘beltway bandits’, have occasional ‘First Friday’ social gatherings. Other events are organized periodically for reconnecting and camaraderie in the 55<sup>th</sup> spirit.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Here is a report from the 55th Wing Association East “Chapter”. Although it did not go as fully planned, it counts as an annual gathering of 55<sup>th</sup> alumni.*

**Ricky Mac** (*the Association’s illustrious veep*) marshaled his troops on 22 August 2014 at the last Saturday night home game of the regular season for the Potomac Nationals minor league baseball team.

The night began with a Bullpen BBQ before the game as some rain fell. That was successful since the feed was in the covered picnic area.

The game promotion was Rick Ankiel Night, a former major leaguer who came through the Potomac Cannons (*former name of the Single A team now called the Nationals*) -- those who wanted a tee shirt replica of his jersey got one.

The field tarp was removed, the National Anthem was performed, and the rain started again. It had rained off and on. The decision to postpone and rescheduled the game as a double header the next night came relatively quick. Rain checks were provided, but I’m not sure anyone in our group took the offer. So, needless to say, it was a short night for most.

The irony was that once the announcement was made to postpone the game, the rain slowed to a drizzle and eventually stopped. The post-game fireworks were shot off anyway for those who had remained in the stadium.

In the group who attended the abbreviated outing were: **Bo** and **Ann Marlin**, **Buck** and **Linda Arvin**, **Jeff** and **Trish Seinwill**, **Lew** and **Kim Call**, their son, **Jeremy** and his wife **Kelly**; **Captain Brad** and **Shannon Higby**, **Tom** and **Stacy Eldridge**, **Dennis** and **Marcia Gillon**, **Val** and **Laura Dugie**, and daughter **Valerie**; **Major Jeremy** and **Leslie Smith**, **Perry** and **Suzie Peloquin**, **George Barth** and his

son, Nick; Colonel Dan Moy, Lt Colonel MarCi Buttie, Rick and Cary McMahan.

A winter gathering is under consideration.

*R.J. McMahan, Nokesville, VA.*

*(Edited from an e-mail 21 October 2014)*

\* \* \* \* \*

For information on future 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association East events, or to get on the e-mail listing, drop Ricky McMahan an e-mail at [potomacpistol@gmail.com](mailto:potomacpistol@gmail.com), or find him on the Pentagon Global for those with access, then pass him your contact information. The more the merrier (*obligatory cliché*).

\* \* \* \* \*

### SAN ANTONIO LUNCH BUNCH

Another alumni group has emerged. This one in the San Antonio area where, as **Dave Frutchey** reports, they gather once a month or so to ‘do lunch’ at various venues; and as other ROMEOS (*Retired Old Men Eating Out*) tend to do, reminisce, tell the same ‘there I was stories’, and generally have a genial time reconnecting.

Here they are pictured at a one of their haunts last December.



*L To R: Hank Dubuy, Mike Morris, Ron Nickerson, Bill White, Charlie McBride, Gus Vanderneck and Frutchey. MIA on this occasion, others who sometimes attend are: Andy Borden, Ken Bryars, Ralph Cofield, and Mark Morris, Mike’s son, also a 55<sup>th</sup> alum.*

Anyone wishing to join this convivial group can contact Dave at [dfrutchey@att.net](mailto:dfrutchey@att.net), ph: 210-355-0040; or Charlie at [cmcbride40@yahoo.com](mailto:cmcbride40@yahoo.com), ph: 830-438-3349.

*(Yo, guys, we are coming your way en masse in October. Feel free to alert the media and the local authorities. Max)*

\* \* \* \* \*

### CSPRINGS/DENVER AREA

Kerm Neal is the man-what-am in Rocky Mountain country. If you are interested in being included in future alumni events, or to get on his e-mail listing, send your contact info to him at [Kermit.d.neal.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Kermit.d.neal.civ@mail.mil) (*new*).

\* \* \* \* \*

### FLAGS FLOWN OVER THE AIR FORCE MEMORIAL ARE AVAILABLE

The Air Force Memorial staff has available for purchase, **US flags** flown over the memorial. These are great gifts for retirement, birthdays, Christmas, etc. All flags purchased through the Air Force Memorial are **made in the USA** and include a certificate of authenticity.



Pricing: 3 x 5 - \$24 Nylon, \$34 Cotton; 5 x 8 - \$42 Nylon, \$59 Cotton

(plus \$6 shipping). Nylon is recommended if the flag will be flown outside.

You may choose a **specific significant date** on which you would like the flag flown over the Memorial.

You can also request that a flag you already own to be flown for free.

For specific and updated information, contact the Air Force Memorial staff at Ph: 703-979-0674, or go to [afmf@airforcememorial.org](mailto:afmf@airforcememorial.org) home page, click on the EVENTS block, then the ‘Flag Flying Request’ link (*left side*) to download the order form.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ASSOCIATION BX

\* \* \* \* \*

### ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

These are ‘must have’ items for reunion events; plus, they look good on the golf course, for casual Fridays at the office, and any leisure activity.



Give a big hint to the family, and mayhap some generous loved one will give you one for whatever you have going: Father’s Day, birthday, anniversary, Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Kwanzaa, Chinese New Year, whatever.

**Great gifts!** The shirts and caps are **unisex**, so get one for your spouse, significant other, or other family members, the family pet even.

The **new** all white design is 100% polyester micro pique, moisture-wicking and anti-microbial control; available in sizes medium, large, XL, and XXL. Size 3XL can be ordered if requested. **The cost is \$35 each.**

**Be sure to state which size you want in your order.**

\* \* \* \* \*

The golf/baseball caps are royal blue with the dual shield logo on the front, and an adjustable back strap. **They go for \$12 each.**

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

**There are charges for priority postage to be added to the individual item cost: \$5.45 for one cap; \$10.45 for one shirt; \$11.35 for both a shirt and cap order; \$11.35 for two shirts.**

More ways to identify with your **Association** and “show the logo” as appropriate for official, social and casual functions.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE ASSOCIATION TIE

The **Association’s** ‘regimental’ 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. It can also be seen in color on the web site.

**The price is \$25 per tie, including shipping and postage. Order now!**

The brain child of Sam Pizzo, this item is another ‘must have’ for **Association** reunion banquets and other appropriate events.

\* \* \* \* \*

Anyone desiring to purchase any of the advertised items should **now** contact the **new** haberdasher, **William (Bill) Sargent** at 2711 Northwood Circle, Papillion, NE, 68133 or [William488@cox.net](mailto:William488@cox.net)

**Checks for the full amount of your order should be made to the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association, and Bill will be promptly on your order.**

\* \* \* \* \*

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



*(Shown actual size)*

The pins continue to be sold to **Association** members all over the country. They are particularly evident at official and social functions at Offutt, and at **55<sup>th</sup>** reunions.

You will want to acquire one for that special lady in your life to wear on any occasion. Gents, it makes a great birthday or anniversary accessory gift, or holiday stocking stuffer.

Classy, but inexpensive.

The **Association** does **not** sell these pins and receives **no** money from the sales. But, as a service for those who wish to possess same: **Erwin’s Jewelers, Frank Kumor**, proprietor, offers them and **you can purchase directly from the store.**

Send order 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 \$4 for shipping.**

Frank is an **Association** member and ardent supporter. He is also a **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Commander's Wingman, and recently was inducted into the Sarpy County (NE) Business Hall of Fame.

\* \* \* \* \*

## REUNIONS

\* \* \* \* \*



### AIR FORCE NAVIGATORS OBSERVERS REUNION

**14-17 APRIL 205  
PENSACOLA, FL**

To be headquartered at the Crowne Plaza Pensacola Grand Hotel with a full schedule of events and tours. Room reservation need to be made NLT 14 March at 850-433-3336 to get the reunion room rate of \$102. Code is the AFNOA reunion

Detailed information on the agenda and costs, and the registration form, can be accessed at **www.afnoa.org** web site, with the reunion prompt.

Queries can be directed to the following contacts:  
The Reunion BRAT, 360-663-2521, thereunionbrat@hotmail.com; or to **Ron Barrett**, AFNOA president, 305-797-0745, ronaldbarrett@yahoo.com.

\* \* \* \* \*

## WHO SHOT WHAT

Pictures not previously attributed: official AF photo of Guillot; Eldridges by Josh Plueger, **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Public Affairs (PA); Thomas, chapel window, Award trophy and Hall of Fame pix by Moore; San Antonio group from Frutchey.

**Association** shirt/cap by **Larry Uteley**; tie by Pizzo; **55<sup>th</sup>** pin by Moore; 'Mad Max' at desk graphic by **Patricia Gros**, friend of the **Association**.

Graphics and organization logos from various sources and web sites.

\* \* \* \* \*

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

It has been brought to this editor's attention, that most professional and organizational publications/newsletters have a listing of the publishing staff.

The *Videmus Omnia* has never done that, nor considered it was necessary. But, to fill a square, here you have it:



**Publisher/Executive**

**Editor/Content Editor/Lead**

**Writer/Proofreader/Photographer/Janitor:**

Max R Moore

**Ass't Proofreader/Moral Support/Main**

**Caregiver:** Carol R. Moore

**Staff:** Dell Computer (*Intel Inside*)

Windows XP (*Yep that's it*)

MSWord (*with spell checker*)

**Data base/Mailing Labels:** Michael J. Cook

**Printer:** Eagle Copy, Bellevue, NE.

*(Just this once. I promise.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

*You can't have everything.*

*Where would you put it?*



# Videmus Omnia



## 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Association, Inc.

(Formerly – 55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association)

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(Address Update)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Veteran?  Yes  No Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dates of Service) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a former member of the 55th Strat Recon Wing? \_\_\_\_\_

When were you a member of the 55<sup>th</sup> Strat Recon Wing? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dates of Service)



Are you a current **or** former member of the 55th Wing? \_\_\_\_\_

When were you a member of the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dates of Service)



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

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

If not on active duty: What is your present occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with dues, if applicable  
(\$20 per year or \$55 for 3 years)\*

to:  
55<sup>TH</sup> WING ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P.O. BOX 13165  
OFFUTT AFB, NE 68113

- \* Note – Expiration date of new members joining after 1 Oct is extended to 31 Dec of following year
- \*\* Note – Dues expiration date – 31 December
- \*\*\*Note - Questions? **Contact Michael J. Cook, Membership Chairman, at Michael.Cook@cox.net, or at the above mailing address, or call (402) 578-5848.**

20 May 2012





