

June 1, 2006

339th



Fighter Group Association

Station F378 – Fowlmere, England

NEWSLETTER

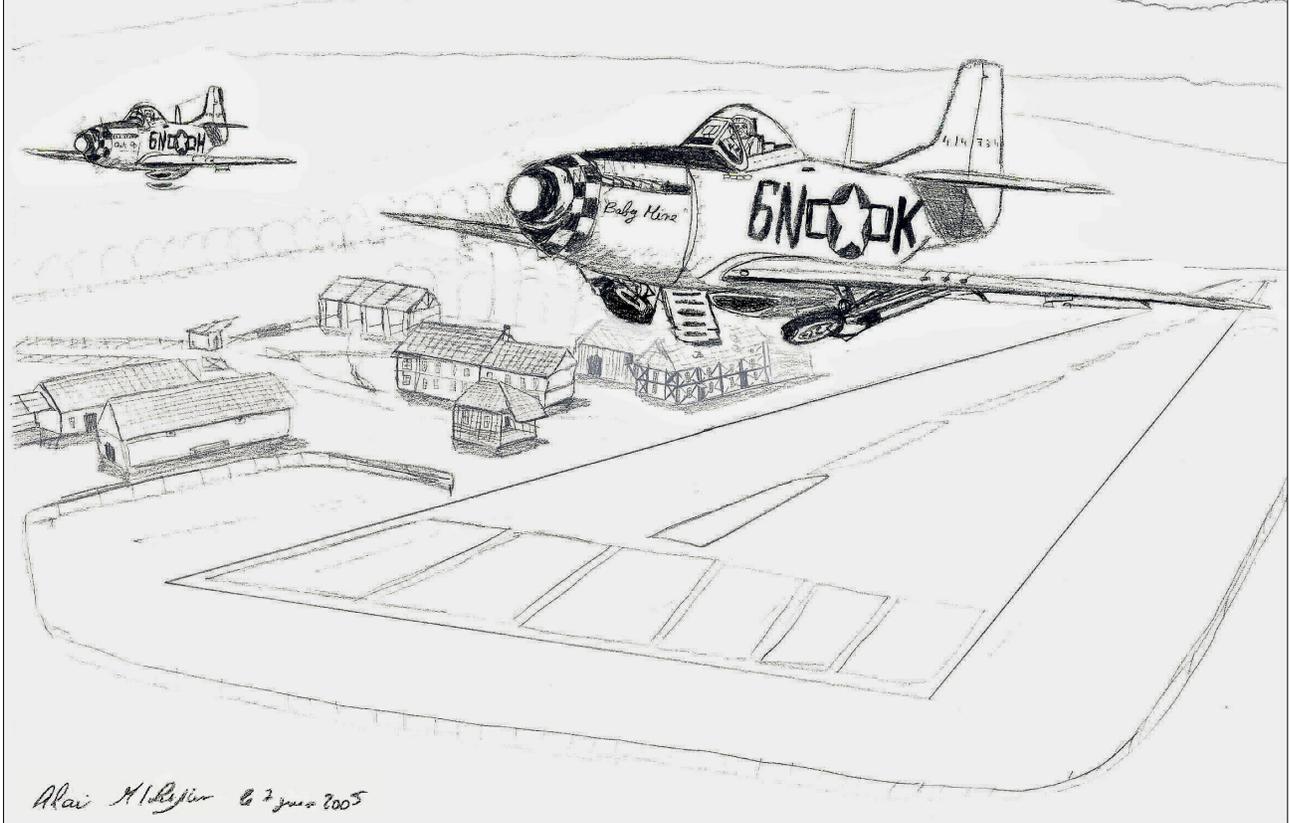
“The Lads from Fowlmere”



Volume 26, Issue 2

Editor: Stephen C. Ananian

Les Americans!



Aircraft of the 339th FG taking off from an Airstrip in Normandy!
This is one of three pencil drawings honoring the 339th on the 61st Anniversary of D-Day.
by 15 year old French Artist Alain Mitildjan.

The Americans!

By Stephen C. Ananian, *pilot 505th FS*

We constantly read in the Media how much the Europeans, - particularly the French, - dislike Americans. As your Editor, I must inform you that this has not been my personal experience. Merely read the past stories in our newsletters of the French tending the graves of our WW II comrades - building memorials to these *Americans continued over -*

Americans that gave their lives to liberate their country. Many of our French readers write decrying this misrepresentation and express their praise and gratitude to the families of "The brave Americans that liberated our country from Nazi Tyranny!"

André Mitildjan a municipal engineer in Velizy is one of our readers and has since become a personal friend. André is a licensed commercial pilot who has been unable to obtain



a position as an Airline pilot so he works as the Municipal Engineer. The family also has property in Normandy where he, his wife and three sons vacation. Last year on June 7th his son Alain (15 years old) drew the pencil sketch on our front page

Lto R - The sons of André Mitildjan - Alexandre, Nelly and the artist Alain.

of Mustangs of the 339th FG taking off from the family Airstrip in Normandy to commemorate the 61st Anniversary of D-Day. Thank you Alain for that fine drawing!

We constantly receive letters from members of the French Resistance asking to contact the pilots they assisted in evading the enemy. They ask of the health of their



André Mitildjan sent us these photos of their home in Normandy today!

friends and tell us how much they love the Americans. I am told that the French living in Normandy and along the West coast love us so much that they are referred to as "Americans" by the rest of the country.

We wish to thank Alain for his dessin (drawing) of the 339th Fighter Group and also thank all our friends out there for their kind comments. We will never forget our allies in the constant struggle for freedom. We pilots will never forget the French underground that rescued and returned so many of our comrades so that we could continue to fight the enemy.

Vive La France! Vive Les Etats Unis!

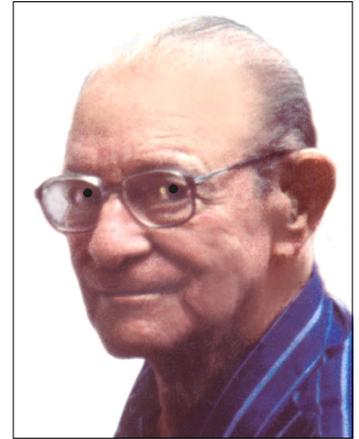




James R. Starnes

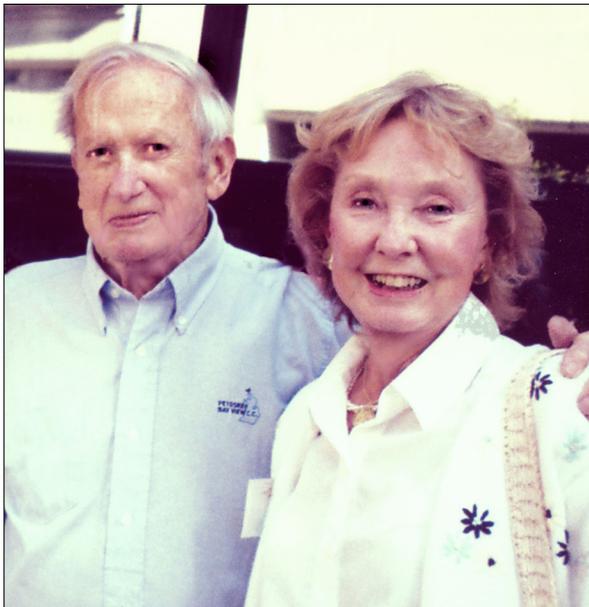
From The Desk of Jim Starnes . .

By James R. Starnes,
Staff Columnist, pilot 505th FS



Fred Cox

During the past few months we lost two of our favorite members, including our oldest member, Fred Cox. Fred was in his mid-90s and remained active right up to his loss. He was first sergeant in the 1786th Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company. After the war he remained in the service retiring as a chief master sergeant. Fred then went back to work for his old C.O., Jack Hild, in the dust control business. After his second retirement Fred attended our reunions driving his Cadillac long distances to be with us. He was able to attend the Tampa reunion last October and said it would probably be his last.



Bob and Carol Burns at reunion in Tampa!

Bob Burns was another distinguished member to lose his life recently. He made it to the Tampa reunion despite a severe heart condition. Bob was involved in a mid-air collision with Major Don Larson on 4 Aug 44 and became a prisoner of war. After the war he designed a car-transport truck to haul cars from Detroit to dealerships. He developed his own factory to manufacture rectangular tubular steel. In 1972 I had a roof rack placed on my pickup camper. When Bob saw it, he said that was some of his rectangular tubular steel. When a Michigan railroad went out of business, Bob bought about 100 miles of track and road bed. He had his own caboose moved about on his rail line. After some municipalities wanted to buy the road bed, he took up the steel rails and sold the bed at a nice profit. He bought from the Henry Ford II estate sale a

beautiful white Edsel convertible. Bob drove it to Tampa to visit me, and while we were in a restaurant, someone left a note on the windshield that if he ever wanted to sell, please let the note writer have a chance at buying it. Bob entered his Edsel in a number of antique car shows where it was widely admired. I think he bought another Edsel for one of his sons. Bob was a great and generous man and will be missed by family and us.

Jim Starnes



A Memorial Day Message

The "Greatest"

Printed from the Waco Tribune, A Letter to the Editor 3/11/06

By William C. Clark, Jr., 504th Director



William C. Clark, Jr.

As an early Baby-Boomer I have had the privilege over the years of knowing many of those who are called the "Greatest Generation". Most are now in their eighties and nineties, and the daily toll in their numbers is staggering. American WWII veterans are dying daily by the thousands and in just a few years they will all be gone. We in the following generations owe them a lot and few of us seem to express it very often or very well. They are/were a special breed and we should all pause in our present lives of self-centered hasty excess to wish them well, and thank them for their sacrifices and bountiful legacy. We will

not see their like again.

Two defining events shaped their lives, deeply affecting the character of the nation through the 20th Century. Those were the Great Depression and World War II. They were the last Americans to know national poverty, and the last to face an enemy in a war where western civilization was truly at stake. They thrived on adversity. On their watch we as a nation went from an isolationist backwater to the only superpower left standing. They took mankind to the moon, and our wealth, culture and economic system became the envy of the planet, at least most of it. English became the accepted international language and the U.S. dollar the international economic measure.

The only major mistake they made was handing this extraordinary success to subsequent generations (ours), who have shown neither the appreciation for the sacrifices involved, nor the vision or will to maintain it.

I guess they had no choice.



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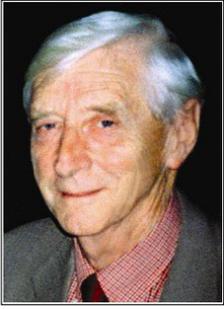
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Stephen C. Ananian, Secretary and Editor- **Phone** (864) 288-2599

Email:- stephen.ananian@mindspring.com

We reprint this story of a 339th pilot from the Eighth Air Force News in memory of the late Aviation Historian Roger Freeman.



KENNETH L. GILBERT B-24 CHAMPION

By Roger A. Freeman, 8th AFHS Historian

From 8th AF News MARCH 2004 with the author's permission.



Capt. Kenneth L. Gilbert

Roger Freeman Some months ago I asked for information that might identify the B-24 Liberator crewmember who flew the highest number of missions with the Eighth Air Force. The response indicates that the champion is Kenneth L. Gilbert, a pilot of the 409th Bomb Squadron, 93rd Bomb Group who completed 75 combat missions, astonishingly in six months and what amounted to three consecutive tours. Ken Gilbert was born July 5th, 1923, a native of Rhode Island. He enlisted in the Air Corps in 1941 and became a flying sergeant before being commissioned in May 1943. Sent with a replacement crew to England at the end of January 1944 he was assigned to the 93rd Bomb Group at Hardwick, flying his first mission on April 12th.

A first tour of 25 missions was completed July 12th but Gilbert then volunteered to continue flying combat. During this period he flew 26 missions in 29 days and then went on to better this record by flying 29 missions in 32 days. On October 9th, 1944 he completed his 75th combat mission and although he wanted to continue flying and had no obvious signs of fatigue, the authorities considered this was more than enough concentrated combat for any flier and sent him home.

A large number of his missions were flown in a B-24 called *Missouri Sue*, in which he had his most telling experience. On a bomb run to a target at Munich the Liberator got caught in turbulence and, avoiding another aircraft in the formation, fell off into a spin. Some 15,000 feet of altitude were lost before Gilbert and his co-pilot were able to regain control, and this with the bomb load still in place.

In addition to 75 combat missions, Captain Gilbert had also flown 11 sorties hauling fuel and supplies to Allied airfields in France for the ground forces, and 6 sea-search sorties endeavouring to locate downed airmen.

In total he flew nearly 600 operational hours and no member of his crew was ever wounded.

Well-built, chubby, blond-haired and 5 feet 7 inches tall, Gilbert was only three months past his 21st birthday anniversary when he was taken off combat flying. He remained supremely confident -- "Flying didn't bother me. The more I flew, the better I felt" -- and planned to return to operations after his leave.

Gilbert's whereabouts between November 1944 and June 1945

B-24 continued over -

have not been ascertained but it is known that he professed an intention of flying fighters.

Apparently, it was not until some six weeks after VE-Day that he finally achieved this ambition, being assigned to the 504th Fighter Squadron, 339th Fighter Group, based at Fowlmere, near Cambridge, England.



504th Flight Line

Bob Kuhlman photo

Equipped with P-51 Mustangs the 339th was, along with several other Eighth Air Force fighter groups, waiting to be redeployed in the fall of that year. Meanwhile flight training continued and Gilbert was one of the trainees, hopeful of seeing action against the Japanese in a Pacific war front.

Bomber pilots often had difficulty in adjusting to fighters and Gilbert was no exception; despite his flying experience. On the afternoon of July 17th he and another pilot had returned from a sortie, the latter landing but Gilbert did another circuit of the airfield and then flew low, onlookers expecting him to pull up and turn for his landing approach. Instead, when about three-quarters of a mile past the airfield, his Mustang suddenly rolled over and crashed in a field. Gilbert was killed instantly. The cause of the crash was never identified although it was unlikely not to have been pilot error.

Although his record was extraordinary, Gilbert never received the acknowledgement one would have expected. A Rhode Island VFW post was named in his honor yet few of its current members know much about the young officer whose portrait hangs among the various plaques on the post meeting place wall.



Ken Willard

With special thanks to Ken Willard, 504th armorer who assisted Roger in his search for information and details for his story.

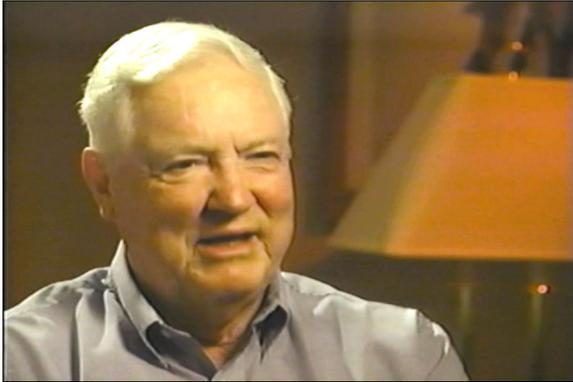
Ken informs me the heirs of Ken Gilbert were recently located - Blakely and Kirk Gilbert living in Oregon. They are now members of our Association (see Roster p.15 for great-grand-nephews - Gilbert) and thanks to them, we finally have a good photo of Captain Ken Gilbert shown on the top of the previous page. The original article had a poor reproduction from the Army newspaper "Stars and Stripes".



A tragic ending for a great airman!

An Eyewitness Account

By Robert Irion, *pilot 505th FS*



Robert E. "Bob" Irion

It was about three days before I was going to leave Fowlmere to go up to Stone, England to wait for a boat home. I had completed my combat tour, received a copy of the orders for my departure and it was scheduled for July 20, 1945.

I went out to the flight line and joined a group of men - crew chiefs, armorers, and radiomen etc. who were playing softball. While waiting for my turn

at bat I saw a flight of four planes from the 504th Squadron coming at about 40 feet off the ground going from northeast to southwest. I turned to the gang next to me and said, "I've flown my last flight off of this field."

I had just finished that sentence as the flight overhead passed us, and seconds later I saw the plane on the left side of the formation do a slow roll to the left and as it completed the roll it "dished out" and lost altitude, crashing into the ground just past the end of the runway! Shocked, I then added one word to my sentence -

"PERIOD"!

None of us went to the crash scene, - it was obvious from the impact and explosion that the pilot could not have survived. The fire truck and ambulance were immediately on the scene, but to no avail - -

I had never seen a wingman in formation try to do a slow roll at low altitude before this event. When I learned that Capt. Gilbert had just been assigned (for less than a month), to the 339th after several tours in four engine bombers, - -

I was even more shocked to think he would attempt such a maneuver.

This was a sad ending to an illustrious flying career for a young man.

That scene is etched forever in my memory.



Army Air Force crash scene photo



"The Hollywood Canteen"

My life with the stars!

By Ron Miller, 505th Armorer

Aloha Steve,

I am certain you are acquainted with the Hollywood Canteen of World War II. Most G.I.s, when in the vicinity, felt sort of 'duty bound' to visit that glamorous 'glitter and glitz' that the place offered - - - but only a relatively few experienced the 'behind the scenes' scenario. The following is my story - -

A guy in our outfit one day persuaded me to go with him to the Canteen. Really didn't want to, but there was very little entertainment to be found at Rice Field.

At the Canteen I met Randolph Scott and talked with him for about fifteen minutes. He was one of my favorite western movie stars and in person a really nice guy, reminding me much of my own father.



Randolph Scott



Self-portrait by
Ronald Edker Miller

Sometimes old memories become hidden in the dust clouds of history, but I do recall the opening remarks.

"I'm very pleased to meet you, Mr. Scott. My name is Miller and I'm with the 339th Fighter Group at Rice Field."

"I see you are a Master Sergeant." Said he.

"Yes sir - - and a good one, too, sir. But just what is a great man like you doing at this Canteen?"

"Well," said he, "For one thing I've been shaking hands with a lot of people, and for another I've been drinking a lot of the raunchy coffee here!"

Well, Steve, he and I got along just fine - - yes sir!

Also spoke to another actor - - a woman who played the matronly mother type in movies and she was very good in her roles. I think her name was Margarete.

Comes now the behind the scenes scenario:

While hanging out at the Canteen, a pretty young woman approached me and said, "My name is ???? (not remembered) and I live in a nice house on La Mirada where we have a swimming pool - - good food - - and domestics to do the work. If you want to talk, that would leave me free to be with you for as long as you wish. Would you like to come home with me?"

Her husband was an Air Corps instructor of student pilots and at that time was stationed at Fairchild. She had another woman friend at her home and they were hosting

several G.I.s also from the Canteen. We were welcomed to eat whatever was wanted, to play in the pool or simply laze around comfortably. I learned from her of the many women in their informal group who followed a similar practice of extending friendship and understanding in a strange environment.

Just how large was the informal group I never did know but in my opinion they did far more for the lonely soldier away from home than did the publicity-seeking caper put on by the Hollywood Canteen.

GI's who became guests of these women inherited a great memory of wartime experience. Because it was done without fanfare it was not a generally known affair but in their own way the war effort was well served by those women!!!

Needless to say, it turned out to be a wonderful 2 days for me.

Aloha, RON



Donations

We thank the following members for their generous donations: -

James R. Starnes \$50, Ken Willard \$50, David Delisio \$25, Lawrence Bliss \$25, George Zavoda \$30, Robert Kuhlman \$25, Lee "Dutch" Eisenhart \$60, Gregory Arabian \$15, Charles J. Steffen, Jr., \$100, Michael Placko \$20, David Williams \$60, Herman Mondshein \$25, Robert Tringue \$20, Channing Winnett \$16, Thomas B. White \$60, Richard Krauss \$20, Frank Swinand \$35, Harry "Rosie" Rosenberg \$20, Jim Davidson \$50, E. E. Shirey \$40, William Raines \$25, Robert Irion \$50, Lois Kaniewski \$25, Beverly French \$50, Lacy S. Vincent \$20, Carl E. Cloud \$35, Michael Cotter \$40, Larry Powell \$100, James Delisio \$50, Richard Sawicki \$20, Andrew Gager \$20, Claire Gousie \$20, Edward Purzycki \$35, Luther Francis \$30, Susan Gibbs \$20, Hal Burch \$20, Robert Young \$38.



339th Fighter Group Caps!

This finely tailored cap with the P-51 of the 339th FG flying over the American Flag sewn on front! The same design as our lapel pins is sewn with real silver thread! A dress cap made to sell for over \$30 retail.

Beige caps are all sold out! Only a few Black Caps left!

While they last the price of \$17 includes shipping! Profits go to the 339th FGA. Just drop me a line with a check to the return address on this newsletter and tell me how many caps you want



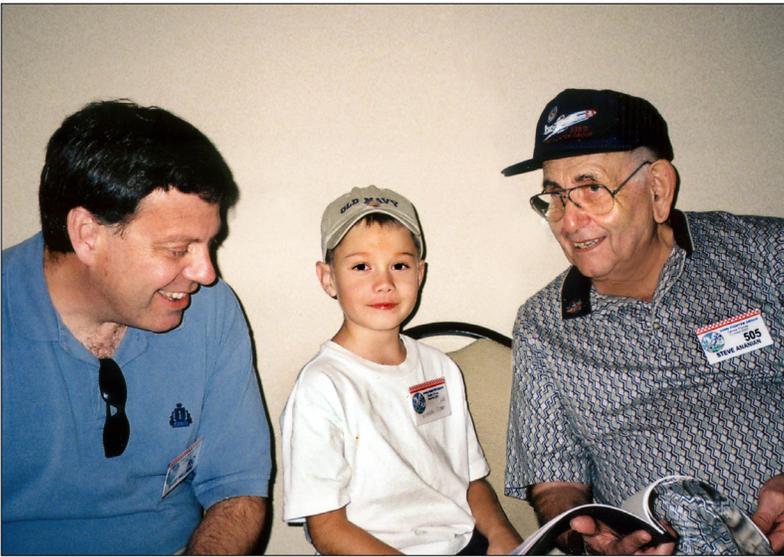
2006 DUES ARE DUE!

Your \$10 (tax-deductible) dues cover the cost of this newsletter.

Newsletter Circulation – 463 – (428 USA, 35 Overseas)

Grateful grandfather - -

By William C. Clark, Jr.,
504th Unit Director



At the last 339th FG reunion in Tampa there was a young man in attendance who was exposed for the first time to the spirit and camaraderie that makes the members of that group so special. I'm speaking of my grandson Nikolas Clark. Obviously I'm proud of the boy as any grandfather would be, but you have to understand this about Nik; although he was only seven years old at the time, and just a little shy and intimidated, he absolutely loved being made a part of something that few his age could comprehend, much less enjoy.

Dave Williams (son of Red Cross Director Mary Kopius Williams) and Nikolas Clark (great-grandson of Bill Clark, Wartime Group CO) listen to an old "horse Pilot" recount tales of Nik's great-grandfather! (Thieme)

He knows about WWII, knows what the P-51 did for the air war in Europe, knows many of the key battles, and is very knowledgeable about military weapons and tactics- you should see him play some of his favorite video games, especially those about WWII.

In Tampa many members of the 339th took the time to sit down with him explaining what it was like in England during the war, what it was like to fly the P-51 Mustang, telling stories about his great-grandfather, and what it was like to be engaged in deadly combat with the Luftwaffe. War stories filled the air, photos and videos were shown, and Nik sucked it all up like a sponge. You made him feel like one of you, and that experience is something he will carry with him all his life. He's still talking about it.

Years from now when we are all gone, this young man will tell his grandchildren about a group of people he met long before, who protected our nation in its time of greatest need, and through their bravery affected the course of civilization. That's a story for the ages, and it is my generation's privilege to have a part in passing it on, with the hope that Nik's will do the same.

His dad Curtis also has war stories from Iraq, but these are left untold for now. When the time is right these too will be shared and celebrated among later groups of American warriors and patriots.

A well-known Armenian-American philosopher-pilot, I know, once told me that grandchildren are the "dessert in the banquet of life."

I can't argue with that!





Editor's Corner

Honorary Fighter Pilot

By Stephen C. Ananian, *editor, pilot 505th*



Last year Richard Krauss, 503rd pilot, was invited by the History teacher of the local school in Ohio to speak to the students on Veteran's Day. Dick was an immediate hit and was invited back several times. Charles Wendt the history teacher put up WW II and 339th memorabilia on the classroom walls and told of his son Sam's desire to be a fighter pilot. The 339th FG Association made son Sam an "Honorable Mustang Pilot" a few months ago and Richard presented him with a certificate to that effect. We recently received the following letter from Sam's mom!

Dear Mr. Ananian,

3/1/06

Please mail six P-51 Mustang pins and 2 hats. Check to cover cost enclosed. Also included are some photos of our two oldest boys. We made the P-51 out of cardboard and "Duck Tape"! Sam is the pilot. Our son, Ethan, was also a hit in his "Uncle Sam" costume. The photos were taken at our local Memorial Day Parade(2005). As you can see in one of the photos, I was very pregnant with son #3! He arrived 2 weeks later.

Thanks!

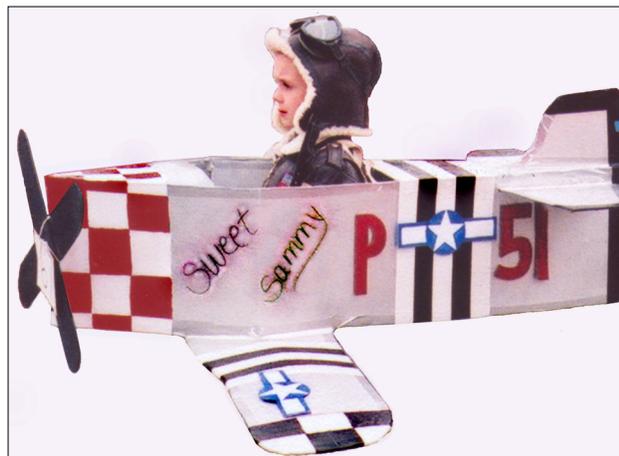
Sincerely, Colleen Wendt



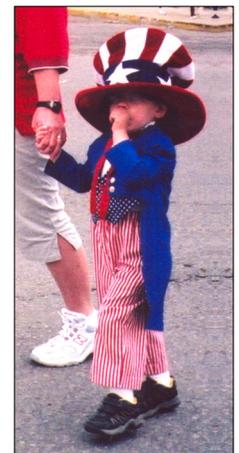
Sam, Mommy and Ethan on Memorial Day 2005.



Sam Wendt, fighter pilot -



Sam flies his P-51 "Sweet Sammy" -

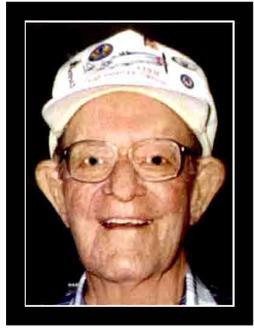


& "Uncle Ethan"

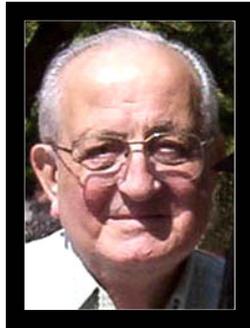
Dick' Krauss's plane, D7-S was named "Sweet Eloise" so Sam Wendt named his plane "Sweet Sammy". Smart thinking! Little chance of a "Dear John" letter there! 

We mourn our loss - - -

DECEASED



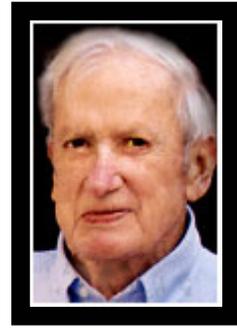
Fred Cox



Fred Manocchi



Ray Bellman



Bob Burns

Fred W. Cox, 1786th Ordnance Supply & Maintenance Company – 94, passed away on March 1, 2006. Fred was Past President of the 339th Fighter Group Association. A veteran attendee to our reunions, he was an inspiration to all of us. At our reunion in Tampa we honored him as the oldest attendee. He said he really liked that. - Robert J. Carter, son

Fred Manocchi, 504th – Sheet Metal Maintenance - Passed away on March 12, 2006 from this life at home, in the arms of his loving wife of 57 years, Zoe. He served proudly in the 339th Fighter Group and to his final days he enjoyed recounting adventures from that time in his life, and has maintained contact with a number of his buddies from those important years.

- James Manocchi, son

Raymond Myron Bellman, 503rd – Crew Chief - 88, died March 18, 2006, in Panama City, FL. He proudly served his country as a member of the 339th Fighter Group, 503rd Fighter Squadron. He was Crew Chief of the then Capt. Enoch Stephenson's aircraft. -John Bellman, son

Robert Burns, 505th – Pilot - died April 22, 2006. He was seriously ill at our Tampa Reunion but he insisted on coming and visiting all his friends. Bob spent much of the War in a POW Camp and endured much hardship for the country he loved. I will miss his friendship and smile. - Steve

We offer our condolences to all the families.



The Mail Bag

Our French Military Historian in France writes about a Memorial for the 339th pilot, Lt. Joseph Sawicki, killed in the battle to secure the beaches on D-Day plus 2:-

Dear Mister Ananian:

After a few months waiting patiently, I was finally able to set up a meeting with the Mayor of Princé, the community where Lieutenant Joseph Sawicki fell. At that meeting, the

Mayor was extremely in favor, and very receptive to the addition of a plaque to be affixed to the "Monument aux morts" of the commune rather than a common marker on the crash site at "La Touche." Mainly, for the reasons of the difficulties of maintaining it properly and that it would eventually be abandoned, whereas its location on the "Monuments aux morts" located in the village centre is often the site of patriotic events and it is always well tended.



Francis Maigne
("Pappy 71")

The organization of this planned ceremony requires many contacts and long months of preparation in order to be the best and most meaningful event, and to leave excellent memories for all generations.

According to the decisions taken by the authorities at a recent meeting, the date has been set for June 10th 2007. We would be extremely happy and honoured of your presence as well as members of the 339th Fighter group in our region for this ceremony.

I can assure you that I will do my utmost to prevent any further delays and that I will keep you informed of all new developments.

As I have asked the family Sawicki, and Speaking on behalf of many of my friends, we would also like to include in this forthcoming commemoration the memory of a German pilot that also fell to his death in the same community during the same aerial combat as Lt. Sawicki, but this could only be done with your total consent, and of course we would respect your desire to the contrary.

Being myself a veteran of two wars, this gesture would mean a lot to me also of course.

Those two young men gave their lives for their own Country and I believe that it would be a just and honourable gesture so that they would not have died for nothing.

Don't you believe Mister Ananian, that if one day, if men of good will decided to reach each other's hand instead of killing each other that the World could be a wonderful place. I also feel that most war veterans regardless of nationality feel as I do.

Please accept the assurance of my sincere gratitude and deep respect,

Francis Maigne

Sawicki family to attend the memorial services next year, we are all invited!:-

Dear Mr. Francis Maigne,

Thank you for your email of April 17, 2006 informing us of the memorial plaque in memory of Lt. Joseph Sawicki to be affixed on the war memorial of the village of Prince. We are not troubled by the delay of this ceremony which is now due to take place June 10, 2007. We appreciate all that you, the authorities and the local people are doing and the timing of such is not an issue.

We likewise would be honored to attend this ceremony in memory of my husband's brother.

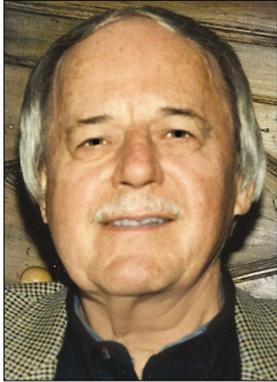
You say that "According to the decisions taken by the authorities" . . . "The choice of a commemorative plaque on the monument was preferred to a common marker . . ."

We entrust these decisions to you, the authorities and the local people to do as you see fit and proper to the occasion.

You request that a German pilot be commemorated at the same ceremony as Lt. Sawicki and you have asked for our consent. In as much as the French people have declared Lt. Sawicki their defender and Liberator, we do not think it appropriate to honor the German soldier at the same time and in the same manner. The German people should not be honored in the same breath with the allies. In so doing you

The Mail Bag continued over

diminish the allied contribution to your country and imply acceptance of the enemy's intention. In matters of this magnitude we should not be willing to let by-gones be by-gones when one considers the destruction that the German regime imposed upon the European community and their allies.



Richard Sawicki

Though we cannot grant your favor, may we ask one of you? My husband and I presented on August 15, 2005, a picture and memorial plaque of Lt. Sawicki to three ladies of Prince who were tending the church grounds. It was this chance meeting that now has involved so many good people in honoring the memory of my husband's brother and preserving his legacy for generations to come. My simple question is that we are curious as to the whereabouts of these items and if they will be part of the memorial. Perhaps they will remain at the church which my husband and I would find appropriate as well.

Thank you and all the good people of Prince for your good work.

Richard and Nancy Sawicki

May I add my two cents? - "After all, the enemy was fighting for his country just as you were fighting for yours. Let by-gones be by-gones!" This is a statement that I am faced with from time to time and I am pleased to have this opportunity to respond!

There is an error in that premise however. We, Joe Sawicki and our comrades were not flying over our homes - protecting our families! Instead, we were thousands of miles away in the air, over FRANCE, fighting to free and liberate the French people from their enslavement.

Civilized soldiers do not butcher unarmed Prisoners Of War as the Germans did. Ask the Poles, Hungarians, Czechs - or the American soldiers at Malmédy during the "Battle of the Bulge". It is easy to blame politicians for these atrocities. But these murders were conducted by so-called "Professional Soldiers". Those animals can never live down their savage, uncivilized behavior. The German people were - and still are to blame!

I for one, - will never forget it! - Nor should you! S. ANANIAN EDITOR



S. C. Ananian



The following note from Jackie and our CO's driver, Jimmy Papas.

Hello Steve,

We sure miss seeing you folks but I really enjoy the newsletters - especially if they have photos - Jimmy just had his 90th birthday and has a hard time walking - but I'm lucky I still have him - married sixty-two years this June.

Hope you are both well.

Regards from us both,

Jackie & Jimmy Papas

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jackie & Jimmy".

A Happy 90th Birthday to Jimmy and a Happy Anniversary to you both! STEVE



This kind note from Ed Purzycki, 328 Service Group, Base defense: -

Hello Blue Skies!

4/30/06

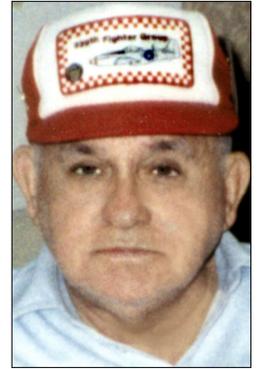
Enclosed are my dues and an additional donation.

I'm reminded of Churchill's quote – "Never have so many owed so much to so few" – These were my feelings when I watched you fellows take off every morning to face danger. I felt so inadequate remaining on the ground – I did get some solace when I realize you couldn't leave unless I stayed up in the middle of those cold nights to receive the "Petrol" deliveries by the British Lorries.

It was always nice to see you return! I'm glad some of you are still here for me to say a grateful – Thank You!

Ed Purzycki.

Ed we were all a team! You men defended our field so that we had a home to return to. Thank you for your donation and kind words. Hoping to see you in San Diego!



Ed Purzycki



Roster Updates

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

Change: - Colones, Thomas S., Channel 7 TV Photojournalist,
103 INWOOD Court, SPARTANBURG, SC 29302

Harry, Claire, 504 – Widow of pilot, 5 – 105 ARBOR CLUB Drive, PONTE VEDRA Bch., FL 32082

Thury, Jr., Paul J., Nephew of 505th CO, 2206 Highway 36 W., Saint Paul, MN 55113-3858

Krauss, William H., 505th – Pilot, 12724 GLENKIRK Road, RICHMOND, VA 23233-2251

Giveans, Isadore J., 503 - Armorer, 1270 W. Union Road, PICAYUNE MS 39466-8462

Penrose, Marcia, 504th Widow of pilot, 135 NE Gerlinger Lane, Dallas, OR 97338

Goertz, Mrs. Allen, 503rd family of Medical NCO, 421 G Street, CENTRAL CITY, NE 68826

Buch, Carrie, 503rd Daughter of Ken Sylvester Aircraft Maint.,
22955 SW SCHOLLS FERRY Road, HILLSBORO OR 97123-9316

Farmer, Owen P., 505th Pilot, 323 RACE TRACK Rd. # 3413, FT WALTON BEACH, FL 32547

Kaniewski, Mrs. Lois, 504th - Widow of armorer,
430 Cleveland Road Apt A-1, Granger, IN 46530

Smith, Capt Jeffrey, 504th Grandson of pilot Roland. 17 Ivy Lane, Porter Cors, NY 12859-1830

Mikkila, Margaret, 505th Daughter of Crew Chief, 1943 Lakeside Drive, Madison, OH 44057

Parr, Joanne, 504 - Daughter of C. Bennett pilot, 14508 SE 20th Place, BELLEVUE, WA 98007

Larson, Thomas E., 504 – Son of Pilot D. S., 49619 Fish Lake Road, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Kass, Sidney "Slip", 503 – Engineering Clerk, 6 B Pansy Drive, Lakewood, NJ 08701

Add:- Lyons, William, Pilot - 355th FG, 19 Cottontail Lane, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533

Gilbert, Blakely Shane, 504th Great Grandnephew of K Gilbert B24 pilot
5266 S.E. 74th Ave., Portland, OR 97206

Gilbert, Kirk, 504th Great Grandnephew of Ken Gilbert B-24 pilot
1429 Sequoia Ave., Springfield, OR 97477

Albertson, Jim, Friend of the 339th FG, 7288 CR #21, Fredricktown, OH 43019

Carter, Robert, ORD – Fred Cox's son, 112 Lakeside Drive, Oldsmar, FL 34677

Please delete the following: - Edward, Carroll - HQ Newsletter Returned - Margaret,

McNamara - HQ Newsletter Returned - Fred Cox - ORD deceased - Robert Burns - 505th pilot deceased.



26th Annual Reunion in San Diego!

Reunion Dates: Oct. 12th-16th

By Lawrence J. Powell

Reunion Chairman,

Vice President, pilot 505th FS

The Red Lion Hanalei, our reunion hotel is conveniently located in Mission Valley in the Heart of San Diego on Hotel Circle North with easy freeway access to all of San Diego's favorite attractions including Sea World, the San Diego Zoo, Historic Old Town and beaches as well as San Diego State "U", the University of California, San Diego and the University of San Diego. Right next door, you'll find Riverwalk Golf Club, Fashion Valley Shopping Center and the trolley line.



The Red Lion Hanalei Hotel

You'll enjoy swimming in the heated pool set in a tranquil tropical oasis amidst cascading waterfalls, colorful Koi ponds, tropical palms and lush inviting gardens. A large whirlpool and fitness center are also available.

The Islands Restaurant offers American and Pacific Rim dishes as well as the exotic Islands Sushi and PuPu Bar. For breakfast, lunch or dinner in a sunny, bright and casual atmosphere, step into the Peacock Cafe.

All this thanks to the untiring efforts of Joyce and Larry Eiswald, mother Dorothy Clark and yours truly. We have scheduled a tour of the city and on Friday we are invited to attend a special performance for military personnel of the Navy "Blue Angels" stunt flying team! (Not 339 Mustang pilots but they are supposed to be pretty good too!)

Hotel Registration Deadline is September 21 - but do not depend on it! I suggest you make your reservations now lest you be left out! Remember, San Diego is a military town and we will be there during "Fleet Week". Hotels are jammed with all sorts of events!

REGISTER NOW! Waiting for the September issue might be too late!

1. Call now and make your hotel reservations at **The Red Lion Hanalei Hotel, San Diego**, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. For hotel Reservations call toll free 1-800-882-0858. Tell them you are with the 339th Fighter Group and want their special rates. The price for 339th Fighter Group Members is \$101 plus 10.5% tax per night. If you wish to vacation with the family or friends these same low rates apply for three days before as well as three days after depending on availability, so come early and plan on making this an extended vacation.

Check into hotel on Thursday Oct. 12th at 4:00 PM. Check out 12:00 NOON Monday, Oct. 16th. The rates for the 339th FG are as we said before only \$101 per night in addition to local taxes (currently 10.5%).

2. Fill out and mail in your reunion reservation form (page 19) with a check to our treasurer Richard Thieme (address on form). If you wish to dine with a special unit, fill out appropriate forms and mail with check to your unit director (names listed on page 19.)

Also see the tentative schedule of events on page 18.

3. The airport transportation in San Diego is provided by "Cloud 9 shuttle" at a cost of \$11.50 per person each way. The shuttles are parked in front of baggage claim at the Ground Transportation Island. At "shuttles for hire" ask for "Cloud 9 shuttle". Or call 1-877-743-3843 for reservations in advance.

Parking at the Red Lion is plentiful at a cost of \$1 per day.

Make your reservations **NOW!** LARRY



SCHEDULED REUNION SIDE TRIPS

#1 – Air Show & the Blue Angels – Oct. 13th Friday –
Includes Bus Trip to Miramar, Special Reserved Cabana seating for 339th members and a special performance of Air Show for military personnel by the Navy "Blue Angels" stunt flying team.
\$30 Admission and \$25 for Bus - Total \$55 a person.



#2 - San Diego City Tour –

Oct. 14th Saturday – Narrated guided tour of San Diego - Explore the Gas Lamp Quarter – The Embarcadero – Harbor views - Old Town – Balboa Park – Hotel Del Coronado and more! Four hour tour only **\$30** a person.

Sunday BANQUET DINNER ARRANGEMENTS

Tossed Green Salad with Assorted Dressings - Choice of: -

London Broil~ Marinated Beef, thinly sliced and topped with a Green Peppercorn Sauce
Oven Roasted Potatoes Fresh Seasonal Vegetables - Or -

Lemon Pepper Chicken~ Marinated to perfection and grilled with a Lemon Pepper Seasoning
Oven Roasted Potatoes Fresh Seasonal Vegetables – Or -

Salmon Waimea~ Grilled Salmon Fillet topped with Papaya Relish
Oven Roasted Potatoes Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

Each Entrée Accompanied By: - Rolls and Butter, Black Forest Cake, Freshly Brewed Kona Coffee, Tea or decaffeinated Coffee

\$40.00 per person (Includes 18% Taxable Service Charge (Tip) and applicable Sales Tax)

More Reunion details over -

Farewell Breakfast on Monday, October 16th:

The Aloha Breakfast Buffet - Assorted Chilled Fruit Juices - Sliced Fresh Fruit - Assorted Flavored Yogurts - Fluffy Scrambled Eggs - Hanalei Breakfast Potatoes

Crisp Bacon - Assorted Danish, Muffins and Croissants - Freshly Brewed Kona Coffee, Tea or Decaffeinated Coffee

\$22 per person (Includes Service Charge and applicable Sales Tax)



Reunion Tentative Schedule of Events

Oct. 12th Thursday All Units will Host Bar!

12:00noon – Registration at 339th Hospitality Room

5:00pm – 6:00pm Welcome meeting – Then on to the “Hospitality Room”

Oct. 13th Friday 505th will Host Bar!

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

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

12:00noon – 4:30pm – Navy Blue Angeles Stunt Flying Team.

7:30pm – Unit Dinners for 503rd & 504th at this Hotel! HQ, ORD & GRP are invited to join 504th Socialize and refreshments at “Hospitality Room ”

Oct. 14th Saturday 504th will Host Bar!

8:30am 1:00pm – San Diego City Tour.

7:30pm – 505th Unit Dinner at this Hotel! Socialize and refreshments at “Hospitality Room ”

Oct. 15th Sunday 503rd will Host Bar!

Free schedule All Day to socialize or whatever.

6:00pm - Cash Bar - followed by

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

Oct. 16th Monday

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

12:00noon Checkout. We say farewell - **“SEE YOU NEXT YEAR”**



A “Heads Up” from the son of James Rosati 505th.

I received a letter from the National Personnel Records Center after I inquired about awards and decorations my dad earned while in the service. Due to a major fire, records from the Army that covered WWII were destroyed.

Please let everyone know that it is important to make copies of all military records they have especially their discharge papers as those are what the Records Center needs for replacing anything.



Actual size!

339th Fighter Group Lapel Pins

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

The price is \$10 each plus \$2 shipping per order. They went so fast that I just ordered another batch. Just drop me a line with a check to the return address on this newsletter (back page).



The 339th Reunion Registration Form

Please fill in your Name

First _____ Last _____ Unit _____ Number attending _____

Please list additional guest names separately for Name Tags.

			<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Fee	\$15	each	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> San Diego City Tour	\$30	each	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Angels Performance	\$55	each	_____	_____

Sunday Night Banquet Dinner

<input type="checkbox"/> Fish	\$40	each	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Beef	\$40	each	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken	\$40	each	_____	_____

Monday Morning Farewell Breakfast

<input type="checkbox"/> Farewell Breakfast	\$22	each	_____	_____
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Total _____

Make your checks payable to **the 339th Fighter Group Association**

And mail with this completed form (or photo copy) to: -

Richard G. Thieme, Treasurer, 2732 South 7th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081-6802

Phone: (920) 452-4780



Unit Directors

503rd Unit Dinner - Fill out unit form below and mail with \$45 check made payable to: -

Luther Francis, 503rd Director, 29 Hillview Road, Gorham, ME 04038 **Phone:** (207)-839-8744

504th, HQ & ORD Unit Dinners - This year our CO, HQ & ORD are invited to join the 504th Unit Dinner. Fill out unit form below and mail with \$45 check made payable to: -

William Clark, Jr., 109 Sherwood Oaks Dr., Waco, TX 76705- **Phone:** (570) 689-4090

505th Unit Dinner - Fill out the form below and mail with \$45 check made payable to: -

Dave Williams, 505th Director, 301 Cheshire Drive # 47, Knoxville, TN 37919-5843

Phone: Work: 865-574-5769 - Home: 865-588-2074.



Unit Dinners

First _____ Last _____ Unit _____ Number attending _____

(NAME above)

Number

Amount

Indicate number of each Chicken _____ @ \$45 per person \$ _____

Beef _____ @ \$45 per person \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Mail this coupon (or photo copy) with checks to the appropriate unit directors listed above.



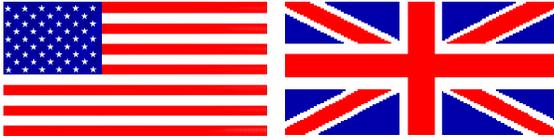
June 1, 2006

339th Fighter Group Association, Inc.

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

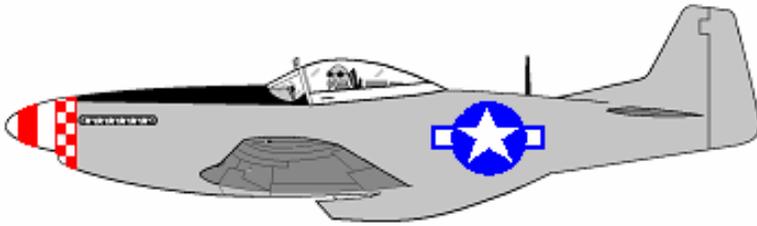


US
POSTAGE



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

To: -
Mailing Address



Clip here

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

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

- Please accept my donation of \$10 for my dues for the 339th FGA. (Tax Exempt)
- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please send me _____ 339th Lapel Pins @ \$10 each plus \$2 additional for shipping
(Number)
- Please send me _____ Black Caps @ \$17 each – includes shipping charges!
(Number)
- Please mail me the 2006 Membership Roster (Mailing addresses).

339th Fighter Group Association, Inc.

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

NAME _____

First Middle Last

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Phone (if you wish) _____ E-mail _____
