



## Report on Annual Reunion of 500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Association and B-29 Wings of the Marianas.

The Reunion was held jointly with the Distinguished Flying Cross Association at the Holiday Inn in Dayton, Ohio from Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> until Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Monday, September 16.

Trip to Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP consists of five sites that tell the stories of Wilbur Wright, Orville Wright, and Paul Laurence Dunbar.

The five sites of Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP offer the opportunity to experience the historically refurbished Wright brothers' printing office, walk through an original Wright brothers' bicycle shop, the Wright brothers' third airplane, follow Wilbur and Orville's footsteps at the Huffman Prairie Flying Field, visit Hawthorn Hill (the Wrights' mansion), and experience Paul Laurence Dunbar's last home. After lunch, business meeting elected new officers:

Larry Miller, President. 721 Roanoke Drive, Edwardsville, IL. home: 618 656-7424; cell 618 616-9415. [eljayem@gmail.com](mailto:eljayem@gmail.com)

Jim Burling, Treasurer. 850 Pebble Creek Court, Monument CO 80132. Phone: home 719-481-1940, cell 719-331-8097. <[jimburling@gmail.com](mailto:jimburling@gmail.com)>

Nancee Hollenbeck, Secretary. W3306 Ross Road, Cambria, WI 53923-9643. 920-348-1202. [nhollenbeck@senecafoods.com](mailto:nhollenbeck@senecafoods.com)

### Tuesday, September 17.

Tour of the National Museum of the Air Force. Many famous airplanes there. Seems that all US aircraft ever built on display.

### Wednesday, September 18.

Tour of Huffman Prairie where the Wright brothers did early flights. It is a huge area that is very flat. Followed by visit to Carillon Historical Park. Many buildings of an earlier period including the brewery where lunch was served. Also, the Wright Brothers Aviation Center. Jim Bowman, member of the 500<sup>th</sup> Association, gave his presentation on the B-29 at the chalk talk. It is available on YouTube as 500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group in WWII. James Bowman, Briefer."

At the dinner, five members of Wings (veterans of WWII) were recognized as Distinguished Guests: Carl H. Barthold, Francis (Frank) Bradley, Edwin D. Lawson, Paul Malnove, and Clinton D. Osborne.

No decision has been made for time and place for next year's meeting.

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New Address.

**Ken Fine, Treasurer, 500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Association**  
**111 Silverette Circle**  
**La Grange, GA 30240**  
**Telephone #: (706) - 756- 8009**  
**Kenneth Fine [finechateau@msn.com](mailto:finechateau@msn.com)**

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### **2019 Reunion Organization**

The 500<sup>th</sup> usually meets with B-29 Wings of the Marianas. This year, Wings joined with the Distinguished Flying Cross Association. This joining helped get better rates and rooms for memorabilia and hospitality.

**William (Bill) Copeland.**

We have learned of the passing of long-time member of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Wing and the 500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association. He passed away on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. No further details are available currently.



**New officers B-29 Wings of the Marianas**  
**Jim Burling, Treasurer, Larry Miller, President,**  
**Nancee Hollenbeck, Secretary**

**Larry Miller, President, B-29 Wings of the Marianas.**

**My father was an armorer in the 315th Bomb Wing and that got me interested in the unit. I couldn't find anything out on the web, so I started a web page to document the history and uniqueness of the 315th Bomb Wing. I began attending reunions of the 315th Bomb Wing Association in my dad's honor. One thing led to another and here I am as Chairman of the B-29 Wings of the Marianas. I am retired after 21 years of active duty with the US Air Force and later retired from the US Postal Service after 20 years of service. I am a paid up for life, active member in The American Legion in the Department, District, Post, and Sons of the American Legion in the District and Squadron levels. I am also a life member and commander of my local VFW Post. I have life membership in AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans Association, Air Force Association and the**

Air Force Sergeants Association. Larry Miller 721 Roanoke Drive, Edwardsville, IL. 62025-2613 Ph: 618 656-7424; Cell 618 616-9415. [eljayem@gmail.com](mailto:eljayem@gmail.com).

**Jim Burling, Jr. – Treasurer, B-29 Wings of the Marianas**

Originally from Carthage, Illinois, but now lives in Monument, Colorado. His connection to B-29 Wings of the Marianas is through his dad, Jim Burling Sr., who was a dual qualified B-29 Navigator-Bombardier. Jim Sr. completed 35 missions as a member of 1Lt George Wolff's crew in the 869<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, 497<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 73<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Wing on Saipan. Edwardsville, IL. Jim Jr. attended the Air Force Academy, graduating in 1975. He spent 27 years as an Air Force Space Operations Officer, retiring as a Colonel in 2002. He then worked as a Senior Space Analyst for Suitor Corporation and SAIC supporting Air Force Space Operations, retiring in Jan 2019. Jim and his wife, Micci, have been married for 40 years and have three children and one grandchild. He is currently writing the story of his Dad's WWII experience for his family. Jim Burling, 850 Pebble Creek Court, Monument CO 80132. one: home 719-481-1940, cell 719-331-8097.

**Nancee Hollenbeck, Secretary, B-29 Wings of the Marianas**

I am Nancee Hollenbeck. My father attended 73<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Wing Reunions when I was younger. After my mother passed away, he asked me to go with him to the "final" reunion in Wichita in 2014. I found the reunion to be wonderful and joined the B29 Wings. I have attended every reunion of the B29 Wings with my husband, Clay, and daughters, Mary and Donna. My father served on Saipan. He says he was with the 39<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Division and worked in the bomb dump, but I have not been able to find any information on the 39<sup>th</sup> Ordnance. I work for Seneca Foods in Cambria, WI. We live in a rural setting outside of Cambria where we have Amish neighbors. Nancee L. Hollenbeck, Seneca Foods Cambria Warehouse. Ph: (920) 348 - 2222 direct. [nhollenbeck@senecafoods.com](mailto:nhollenbeck@senecafoods.com).

**Ken Fine, Secretary-Treasurer, of the 500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Association** Ken Fine - Son of 1st Lt Kenneth F(IO) Fine. My father was a navigator/bombardier serving in the 882nd SQ of the 500th Bomb Group, 73rd Bomb Wing. When I retired from UPS in 2003, I began an attempt to locate any relatives of my father's first crew, all but three were lost over Japan on January 3rd, 1945. I eventually met Ed Lawson on a Sunday morning phone call which only heightened my resolve to find out as much as I could about the crew and the B-29. I currently serve as the treasurer of the 500th Bomb Group Memorial Association. I have recently moved to Georgia from Missouri. Kenneth Fine ([finechateau@msn.com](mailto:finechateau@msn.com)). 111 Silverette Circle, La Grange, GA 30240. Ph: Telephone #: (706) - 756- 8009.

**James Bowman, Editor Newsletter, Director 500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group**

James Bowman -- Son of James Bowman, tail gunner on the Savage-LaMarche-Holdridge lead crew of the 882nd Bomb Squadron, 500th Bomb Group. I am doubly retired, US Army (27 years) and federal government (26 years). Education: BA Sociology/Anthropology, Albion College; Russian Basic and Intermediate, Defense Language Institute; Russian Area Studies, George Washington University; Naval War College. After retirement I began researching my father's WW2 service, which led me to the 73rd Bomb Wing Association, where I met many wonderful and helpful people, including Ed Lawson. Have conducted extensive research on the 73rd Bomb Wing and 500th Bomb Group at the National Archives and many other places. Currently reside in Maryland.

Ed Lawson, Editor, Newsletter; Director, 500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association. T/Sgt 882<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Squadron. Wounded in a Japanese Air Raid on Saipan. Completed 30 missions. Education: Boston Latin School, University of Illinois, A.B, A.M, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Fredonia State University. Editor, 497<sup>th</sup> and 500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Websites. 23 Westerly Drive, Fredonia, NY 14063. Ph: (716) 673-1921. Email: [edlawson@netsync.net](mailto:edlawson@netsync.net)

Sandie Gillard, longtime photographer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Wing Association and its successor. Sandie Gillard comes to us from a background of professional > photography. She has attended reunions of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Wing Association for over 25 years. During this time, she partnered with William Thorrat, former Crew Chief of *Joker's Wild*. Their photographs are in albums, and archives at the B-29 Museum in Pratt, Kansas. Many have also appeared in *Saipan Superfort* and other newsletters. She currently divides her time between California and Cleveland. Her mailing address is PO Box 3597 Laguna Hills, CA 92654. E-mail: [lightkeepers23@gmail.com](mailto:lightkeepers23@gmail.com). Phone: 216-832-8694.



Frank J. Bradley; Author.

My service was with the 314th Bomb Wing, 330th Bomb Group, 457th Bomb Squadron stationed on Guam. I was tail gunner on K3, City of Fort Worth for approximately 25 missions. My curiosity regarding WW2 led me to research and my publications. I was involved with the history committee of 330th Bomb Group Association and helped put together two volumes of 330th Bomb Group history. Post war, under the GI Bill and I evolved from an electrical engineering degree to radiological physics at Oak Ridge. My field is known as Health Physics and involves radiation protection, in which I worked at the University of Pittsburgh and Ohio State University. I ended up as Principal Radiophysicist for the New York State Department of Labor, Radiological Health Unit for 25 years. The charge also included enforcement of laser safety regulations. I retired in 1992 and have kept a little busy teaching laser safety classes in New York State. Author of: *He Gave the Order; The Life and Times of Admiral Osami Nagano*. For further information go to: [RMP226@hotmail.com](mailto:RMP226@hotmail.com)



**Frank J. Bradley**

**Photos from Dayton**

**We would like to thank Sandie Gillard, Judy Brydon, Rose Marie Pratt, & Korrie Engel. Sorry we could not use more of them.**



**Clint Osborne, Maj. General James Dawkins, and Karen Skurcenski**



**Mark and Barbara Martin**



**Jim Bowman & Doug Comella with Veterans: Frank Bradley, Clint Osborne, Ed Lawson & Paul Malnove**



**Clay Hollenbeck, Donna, Mary, & Nancee Hollenbeck.**



**Bruce Huffman, Master of Ceremonies, DFC Society, & Chuck Sweeney, President, Society.**



**Nanny Baskin and Harry Young.**



**Clint Osborne & Paul Malnove   Sandie Gillard & Lt. Col Dick Rutan   Ed Lawson & Clint Osborne**

500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Association Friends of the 497<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group  
Membership Renewal (Year is from June 1, 2019--May 31, 2020)

Yes! I want to continue as a Partner and help the 500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing Memorial Association and the Friends of the 497<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group with their mission of preserving and perpetuating the glorious memories of courage and heroism of the men of World War II. The 500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Association is recognized as a non-profit under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Data still keep coming in. We use the dues and gifts to make updates for our websites.

Checks can be made out to: 500<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and sent to: Kenneth F. Fine, Ken Fine, 111 Silverette Circle, La Grange, GA 30240. Ph: (706) - 756- 8009. Kenneth Fine <finechateau@msn.com>  
2003 SW Meyer Blvd, Blue Springs, MO 64015, (816) 228-4212, [finechateau@msn.com](mailto:finechateau@msn.com)

Annual Dues \$25. Contributions \_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print

Telephone ( ) ( ) ( ) E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If Legacy, Name of Person to Whom Related \_\_\_\_\_

Unit in the 73<sup>rd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

(If Other, please give further information) \_\_\_\_\_

Websites: [www.500thbombgroupb29.org](http://www.500thbombgroupb29.org) [www.497thbombgroupb29.org](http://www.497thbombgroupb29.org)

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B-29 Wings of the Marianas Membership Application/Renewal

The B-29 Wings of the Marianas organization has as its mission the preservation of the glorious memories of courage and valor of the men who served in the 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force during WWII. The B-29 Wings of the Marianas organization is recognized as a non-profit under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Contributions are deductible. Fiscal year: June 1, 2017--May 31, 2018. (Those who attended the Dayton Reunion have already paid their 2019-2020 dues).

Checks can be sent to: B-29 Wings of the Marianas, Jim Burling, 850 Pebble Creek Court, Monument CO 80132. Ph H; 719-481-1940, C: I 719-331-8097. Jim Burling [jimburling@gmail.com](mailto:jimburling@gmail.com)

Annual Dues: \_\_\_ \$20. \_\_\_ Life Membership \$200. Contributions \_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print

Telephone ( ) ( ) ( ) E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If Legacy, Name of Person to Whom Related \_\_\_\_\_

Unit in the 73<sup>rd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_