

99TH BOMB GROUP

Volume 25 Issue 2

December 2005

Presidential Message

Greetings:

Remember when "Greetings" was the opening salutation on a letter announcing that you were drafted into the Army? If you had enlisted, you didn't have that unique experience.

Everything I've heard back about our 2005 Annual Reunion in Tunica, Mississippi, has been good: the rooms; the food; the tours and trips; and, especially, our reception by the Mayor and people of Tunica, that was unforgettable. The catfish-fry by the Lions Club was a heart-warming experience. The Fed-Ex tour was little short of mind-boggling. We all owe a debt of gratitude to all involved, especially Walt Montgomery, David Hill, Arkie Clark, and Jules Horowitz, as well as Jerry Buckingham and Gary Staffo.

Thanks to the unselfish cooperation of your Board of Directors, the business meetings went very smoothly and the affairs of your Society were handled swiftly and efficiently. I'm grateful to all of you for your cooperation and your willingness to work for the greater good of all.

As of this writing, our site selection team is nailing down some details on the next Annual Reunion. It will be held at *The Orleans Hotel & Casino* in Las Vegas, NV September 24 -28, 2006 and hosted by Henry Fouts (346th BS). Detailed information and a Registration Form will be found in the *next* Newsletter. I've been there only once, last year, and I'm ready to go back! In the meantime, don't forget the social Mini Reunion being held in Daytona Beach, FL April 26 -30, 2006. Mort and Virginia Magee always host a fine party. (I love you Virginia!) The Mini Reunion Registration can be found on page 23 of this Newsletter.

We are all getting up in years and we have reports of various ailments. But, let's pull up our socks, suck up those sagging guts, and let's head out to Vegas this September to be with old buddies, and remember the old days when all airplanes had propellers, as any sensible airplane should!

I miss all your wonderful old faces. Let's get together again. God Bless you all.

Warren Burns

99th BGHS NOTE: Another Year Has Passed!

Another year has passed and the 99th Bomb Group Historical Society (BGHS) has had a very successful year. This has included a number of accomplishments of which a few are highlighted below:

The B-17 Flying Fortress Historical Calendar - For the third straight year we have made the "The B-17 Flying Fortress Historical Calendar" available to our members at a reduced cost, and for 2007 we are planning to have the calendar totally dedicated to the 99th BG using the photos provided to us by our members or through other public sources such as the National Archives.

The Diamondbacks – The History of the 99th Bomb Group (H) - We were able to work with Turner Publishing and succeeded in having them print an additional 100 copies of "The Diamondbacks – The History of the 99th Bomb Group (H)" to fill back orders for our membership and provide for future donations to Libraries and other locations where the 99th BG history can be perpetuated.

99th BGHS Member Reunions - The 99th BGHS sponsored two major events for our membership, a Mini-Reunion in Orlando, FL April 27th – May 1, 2005, and our Annual Reunion held in Tunica, MS October 17-20, 2005. Both of these 99th BGHS events were well received and deeply appreciated by all who were able to attend and leave with not only great memories of good times shared with comrades, but also a greater appreciation and understanding of our 99th BG heritage and contribution to WWIL. Our special "Thank you" to Mort and Virginia Magee who hosted the Mini-Reunion, and David O. Hill and Walt Montgomery who co-hosted the Annual Reunion.

99th BGHS Member Services – Jerry Buckingham has done an outstanding job of providing services to our members that include the Annual Membership Directory, careful management of our Treasury (including collection of Dues, payment of bills, and providing Quarterly Reports), and working with the outstanding 99th BGHS database compiled by Dick Drain to help provide many members with detailed information on their mission list, and the aircraft and crew's they flew with. Credit should also be given to James Peters and Jules Horowitz who monitor the ArmyAirForces.com website for 99th BG questions and steer them to us for more information and possible 99th BGHS membership. Many of you may not realize that from this site alone we average one or two requests per week for detailed information about 99th BG personnel, aircraft, missions and related topics. Requests for 99th BG information from overseas average about one or two requests per month and come primarily from Italy, Poland, Germany and the areas formerly known as Yugoslavia and Hungary.

99th Bomb Group Website – We all are very pleased that Janet Stoddard (her father was a ball turret gunner in the 347th BS, from Nov 1944 to the end of the war) volunteered to reestablish the 99th BG website and serve as the Webmaster for the site originally setup by Ford Lauer III. The 99th BG Website was back up and running prior to the October 2005 Annual Reunion and I hope that each of you who have computer access will visit the site and provide us with your feedback as to how we might continue to improve upon the website. The 99th BG website address is: <http://www.99bombgroup.org>

On behalf of the Officers and the Board of Directors for the 99th BGHS we extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all our members for your participation and contributions to help us with our mission to preserve and spread the history of the 99th BG.

Membership directory has been removed for privacy.

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IN MEMORIAM

William F. "Bill" Somers, 348th BS

April 20, 1925 - September 21, 2005

Wilbur O. Dixon, 416th BS

October 18, 1923 - April 29, 2005

Harrison L. Shaffer, Jr., 346th BS

September 2, 1921 - March 28, 2005

Gus Tyre "Pinky" Brown, 347th BS

December 2, 1923 - October 2, 2005

Norman R. 'Bud' Kaufman, 347th BS

Feb. 1, 1918 -- Nov. 6, 2005

Leo J. Gosselin, 347th BS

1921 - 3 July, 2004

John C. Antonik, 346th BS

August 9, 2004

Taylor V. Burson, 416th BS

2005

Travis C. Briggs, 416th BS

2002

Archie J. Sidwell

2003

Charles E. Miller, 346th BS

October 16, 2005

**Roselle Lewis,
wife of Earl Lewis, 346th BS**

June 14, 2005

Joseph J. Willis, 347th BS

January 13, 2006

David Ankeney, 346th BS

January 1, 2006

Ralph Kramer, 346th BS

September 14, 2005

99th BGHS NOTICES - 2006 B-17 Flying Fortress Historical Calendars Now On Sale!

We have for sale to members the 2006 B-17 Flying Fortress Historical Calendar. This Calendar has color photos on the front and rear covers and opens up to be 18 inches tall by 12 inches wide. The 9" x 12" top of each page features a full size black and white photo of a B-17. The bottom 9" x 12" half has one small picture and the calendar for the month which is annotated with key facts about the B-17 history and WWII. It was a smashing success at the 99th BGHS 2005 Reunion in Tunica, MS where we quickly ran out of our first supply. To order your calendar(s) make your check payable to the "99th BGHS" and include \$8.00 for each calendar (this includes shipping by USPS First Class Mail in the US). A perfect gift for family and friends. The calendar can be purchased from other sources at a higher cost and usually does not include shipping. Make checks payable to the "99th BGHS" and mail to:

Gary T. Staffo
99th BGHS Newsletter Editor
6226 Garden Road
Springfield, VA 22152-1504

For any questions please contact Gary at the above address or by e-mail at GStaffo@gis.net or daytime phone 202-586-9577. Gary is still looking for more 99th BGHS WWII photos for our historical collection and for possible use in the 2007 Calendar.



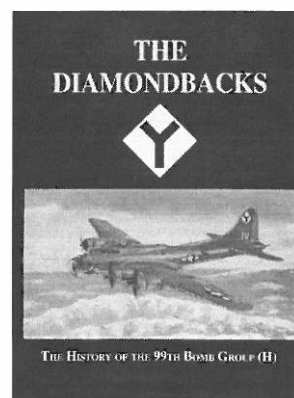
"The Diamondbacks – The History of the 99th Bomb Group (H)" Now On Sale!

This is the book that every member should have. It is a hardcover 9" x 12" with 112 pages filled with facts, pictures and stories about the 99th BG aircraft, missions and the men who flew them. There are about 100 copies newly printed at \$35.00 each, postage paid in the lower 48 as a one-time special offer sale. Current price was \$52.50 from Turner Publishing for the few they have left. If you already have one, they are a perfect gift for family, friend or your local Library or Veterans Post as part of the Veterans Legacy Campaign. Let us know in your order and we will include a special bookplate inside the front cover page that will honor your contribution when you personally present the book.

THIS HISTORIC PUBLICATION
DONATED BY:

Make checks payable to the "99th BGHS" and mail to:

Gary T. Staffo
99th BGHS Newsletter Editor
6226 Garden Road
Springfield, VA 22152-1504



99th Bomb Group Mini Reunion
April 26 – 30th, 2005 in Daytona Beach, Florida
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites
930 North Atlantic Ave.
Daytona Beach, FL 32118
1-800-804-7851

There are 20 rooms held for the 99th Bomb Group at a rate of \$86.00 per night plus tax (Room with City View), or \$96.00 per night plus tax (Room with Ocean View). A full Breakfast is included. Reservations must be received by April 1, 2006 in order to ensure room availability at the group rate. All rooms have refrigerator and microwave. The Resort is on the beach. There is a swimming pool available. Restaurant serves Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner – casual and affordable. **Please phone the Hotel directly to make your room reservations.**

99th BGHS Mini Reunion Registration Form

Please complete *As Soon As Possible* and mail this **99th BGHS Mini Reunion Registration Form** with your check to our Host, Morton G. Magee at the address provided below.

	Per Person	Number of people	Total
Registration: (Wednesday 04/26/06)	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
Banquet: (Saturday 04/29/06)	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
Total			\$ _____

There are no planned trips. The Hotel can plan any trips you may be interested in, such as:

Tours: (tentative depending on interest, pay Hotel at reunion)	Number interested
Trolleyboat (NEW!)	_____
Daytona Beach Speedway	_____
Chocolate Factory Tour	_____

Send check to Host: Morton G. Magee Phone: 386-673-8549
2801 N. Halifax Ave. #155
Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3179

Your name: _____ Spouse or Friend: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State Zip: _____ Squadron: 346 347 348 416

Questions or Comments: _____

Editors Note:
Our special "thank you" to Virginia and Mort Magee for being such gracious hosts once again.

EDITORS NOTE

SPECIAL EDITION - Membership DIRECTORY ENCLOSED!

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REMINDER YOUR 2006 99th BGHS Membership Dues of \$15.00 Are Due Now!	

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