

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER
Maurice "Mo" Cea - President

Betty and I are looking forward to joining all our friends at our next reunion in Branson, Missouri on August the 23rd through the 27th. Plans for our reunion look terrific, thanks to Gene and Mary Harshman.

Our 2007 reunion will be in Minot, North Dakota, probably mid-August. Nearby Minot AFB is the home of the 91st Space Wing. A delegation will be there this month to make final arrangements.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to members who have had health problems. God grant them a speedy recovery.

Thanks to our secretary, Jim Bard, for his fine efforts on getting the word out to all our members.

Our 91st SRWA has new members; we welcome them aboard.

- Jim Cliver Karl Nicholson
- Charlie Rice Cliff Salyer
- Robert Adams (PUFL)
- Ben Hardy (PUFL)
- Bill Heim (PUFL)
- Ed Pettit (PUFL)

VP COMMENTS

Jerry Haines

Pennie and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Branson.

REUNION 2006

Gene Harshman, Chairman

Join us in Branson 23 – 27 August. If you haven't signed up yet, you'll find a Registration Form attached. I personally guarantee a great time.

ADMINISTRATIVE "STUFF"

Jim Bard – Secretary

Secretary's note - 2005 reunion

I was remiss in not mentioning a significant event during the last

reunion – Hal Austin's briefing on his Russian overflight mission of May 1954. As a young airman, I went to work for him in 1955; he was a major factor that started me on an Air Force career. Jim

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

The membership application (dues form) asks for information to assist me in my job as the Secretary. For example: When mail comes back marked "undeliverable," I need a point of contact to begin tracking you down. (Its usually sad news.) I need your military background to search out guys from certain eras or squadron to answer inquires. Etc.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

The election and membership meeting time and location will be posted in the hospitality suite in Branson. You are invited to submit agenda topics to the Secretary.

ELECTIONS

Officers and Directors are elected in even numbered years, and the Nominating Committee has prepared the ballot for our August membership meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Rosters will be included only with the July Recon Recorder. Interim changes and additions will be included in the January issues.

FINANCES

Stan Kopala – Treasurer

Our latest financial statement is available upon request.

1st quarter activity was as follows:

Begin Chk Acct Balance	\$6375.98
Income (not incl Reunion)	959.12
Expenditures/Refunds (378.81)
Ending Chk Balance	6,956.29
Begin *Escrow Balance	2,595.45
PUFL Dues&Escrow Int	636.79

Ending Escrow Balance	3,232.24
Total Funds	<u>\$10,188.53</u>
Operating Funds	\$ 6,956.29

*Escrow - PUFL members' dues.
Branson reunion accounting being maintained by the Reunion Chair.

******IMPORTANT******

If you are not Paid Up For Life (PUFL), your dues are payable prior to **30 June 06** – please complete the enclosed renewal form and remit your check. **Do it TODAY.** Be sure to consider a Paid Up For Life Membership; we now have fourteen. Who's next?

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MEMORIES

Jim Brennan – Archivist

I am always searching for photographs, documents, or even handwritten memoirs related to the 91SRW; send them to me.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tom Crawford

If you or someone you know from the 91SRW is ill, or if you hear of a passing, please contact me ASAP.

..... *A special tribute*

Ninety-First

Our Family Tree & Branches

Patriotism-Pride-Brotherhood

91st Photo Recon Squadron – WWI
They served in Europe, but we've been unable to make contact with any of this group.

91st Bomb Group – WWII
Trained at various stateside bases, they ultimately flew their bombing missions from AF Station 121 in Bassingbourn England from 1942-1945.

From the 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association's By-laws:

“ARTICLE IV. PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

"Section 1. The purpose and goals of the Association are:

"a. To perpetuate the memory of former members of the 91st Bombardment Group (H) and supporting units, 1st Air Division, 8th Air Force, USAAF, stationed at Bassingbourn Airdrome, Station 121, Bassingbourn, England, who lost their lives during World War II, or have since passed away; and to perpetuate the memory of those who served in organizations descended from the 91st Bomb Group, and who lost their lives in the performance of their duties in conflicts and wars after WW II."

The 91SRW descended from the 91BG.

For information contact:

Ed Gates, President 91BGMA
13311 16th Ave. Ct. S
Tacoma, WA 98444
Tel. 253-535-4246
gainmutual@yahoo.com

16th Photo Recon Squadron
Absorbed by the 91st SRW

91st Strat Recon Sqd – Korean War
31st & 6091st Strat Recon Sq
In March 1949 the 91st SRS was assigned to the 91st SRW at McGuire. The following year it

was detached to FEAF to support the Korean War effort. In the meantime, in June 1950, the 31st SRS began flying reconnaissance missions over Korea from their base on Okinawa; in July they moved to Japan. The 31st was absorbed by the 91st on November 15, 1950 after the latter's arrival on Japan. November 9, 1950, a 31st (91st) Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron gunner, Sgt. Harry J. Levene, scored the first B-29 jet victory of the Korean War, destroying an attacking MiG-15. The damaged RB-29 limped back to Japan, but five crewmen died in the crash landing. July 27, 1953, flying a 91st SRS RB29, Lt. Denver S. Cook piloted the last FEAF Bomber Command sortie, dropping leaflets over North Korea. The 6091st assumed the duties of the 91st shortly after the Korean action ceased. These aligned or assigned units are included in our association.

The 91st SRS has had a distinguished history of its own; but for this period it was coupled with that of the 91st SRW. We are proud to have been part of the joint effort.

91st Strat Recon Wing – Cold War Worldwide Surveillance 1947 - 1957

What is this association all about?

**–Patriotism - Pride -
Brotherhood–** All here in our past, present, and future.

91st Bomb Wing (H) Vietnam War

We've been unable to make contact with any of this group that were flying B52 missions.

91st Missile Wing Now the 91st Space Wing

Col. Dan Adams, Wing
Commander
CMSgt Michael M. Williams,
Wing Sgt.
Major
Ms. April Kozma, Chief of
Protocol
Mr. Dan DeForest, Wing Historian
They are on guard 24/7 with the
nation's Minuteman Missile
Defense System. You can find
these folks at Minot AFB, ND.

91st Intelligence Squadron

Located at Fort Meade, Maryland,
as part of NSA, their origin is the
91st SRS.

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Other Branches of the Recon Tree

55th Strat Recon Wing Assoc.

President – James (Jim) W. Thomas 4418
Anchor Mill Dr.
Bellevue, NE 68123
e-mail: JThomas927@aol.com

90th Strat Recon Wing Assoc.

President – Chuck Hale
670 N. 1505 Road
Lawrence, KS 66049-9121
e-mail: chuckhale@earthlink.net

Obituaries

Charles E. Buchanan, 91st SRS, January 2005. Information received from his son, Keith. His widow, Margaret, resides in Florida.

Betty DeFelice, wife of Founding Member Angelo (Angie) DeFelice, died of a sudden heart attack December 31, 2005. Her family and friends, and the membership of the 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association will sorely miss Betty. We will all remember Betty as the gracious hostess at the DeFelice Pig Roasts. (Information received from VP Jerry Haines, a close friend of the DeFelice family.)

Robert E. "Bob" Gerstemeier, 91st BG (WWII). 91st SRWA member, Robert E. "Bob" Halleran, was part of the color guard for 91st BGMA departed member,

91st SRW Association - Recon Recorder

Robert E. "Bob" Gerstemeier, on 9 January in Port St. Lucie, Florida. I print this here because of this touching coincidence of contact between our two associations. (By the way, the 91st BG Bob was a B-17 gunner; our Bob was a B-29 gunner.)

William (Bill) Bower, 91st SRS. March 8, 2006.

Nellie Stone, wife of member Charles (Chuck) Stone, 91st SRS, died February 3rd in Little Falls, Minnesota. Information received from Chuck's B29 Flight Engineer, Jim Cliver

Dear Jim, Thanks for being in touch and for your kind words. I guess Jim Cliver was your first contact on this subject. He was a perfect Flight Engineer for our RB-29 crew and has remained a treasured friend over a lifetime. The words I have been sharing with friends regarding Nell's passing read like this:

For those who have not heard, Nell died peacefully, at 1:10 p.m., February 3rd. She has had a difficult ordeal in her final days; yet, she was resting comfortably at the end, thanks to the efforts of a nurse from our local Hospice organization. All is well here. She is at peace and I am truly thankful for our 59 1/2 years together.

Nell's memorial service was conducted February 8th and all went well. The entire church choir participated and the sanctuary was filled with beautiful music for the family and friends from near and far who were in attendance. Our dear friends, managers of the local Falls Ballroom and great food caterers, fed a delightful meal to all who could remain for lunch. You will find program materials enclosed. Our son, David, and family were all present from Elk Grove, CA. Daughter, Sandie, who lives here in Little Falls, has been a great help to both Nell and me throughout Nell's extended illness and final days. A special thanks to those who were able to attend the service, for the many memorial gifts, and for those special one-on-one moments when family members and friends offer welcome words and hugs.

As I begin this new chapter of life I can

see that I have a major adjustment to make as I strive to learn to live through each day without the physical presence of my Nell. Her remains are in a beautiful container on display in my living room. They will remain as a part of my home environment, pending my own death, when we will be buried together in the nearby Camp Ripley National Military Cemetery. As to my next moves, probably, most fortunately, I have a long list of loose ends to take care of which is no doubt a blessed distraction.

Peace be with you and those you love.

Affectionately,

Chuck

Sick Call

Betty Cea received a note from Phyllis Valentine and she said: "We are losing Jim, the Radiation has seemed to kill the cancer in his neck, but the rest of his body is going pretty fast. His mind is pretty good and he loves the get-well cards from his military friends. Thank you from the bottom of my heart." Send cards to Jim Valentine, 1525 Stagecoach Ln. SE, Albuquerque, NM 67123.

Jim Valentine was a member of the association until 2003.

Betty also received a call from Norris Swindle and he has been diagnosed with lung cancer and has only till December; so PLEASE send him cards at 14917 Trinidad Drive, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683. Let him be encouraged by wonderful words from his friends. Although never a member of the association, Norris was at Lockbourne and some of you may have known him.

Letters & Feedback

The 91st SRWA Motto

You may recall that when the subject of a Challenge Coin was discussed, it became obvious we needed a motto; so, we had a contest. Suggestions came pouring in; all were listed on a ballot; the membership voted to select:

Volume 11 Issue 2 Jul 2006
Patriotism-Pride-Brotherhood

To record and preserve a true reflection of it's meaning, I asked the originator, Paul Kardian, to jot down his thoughts:

As I pondered a suggestion for a motto... I decided to submit something that would reflect on both our military service time in the Wing and our membership in the present 91st SRW Association. The words are pretty basic and I think the words can be applied to both our service and membership.

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Patriotism - We surely had a love of country (patriotism) or we wouldn't have enlisted. I trust we are still patriotic as members of the 91st SRWA.

Pride - I, and I trust everyone, had pride in the individual units we served in while in the service, and I know I have pride in being a member of the 91st SRWA. Our pride is displayed today carrying on the memories of our comrades who served with us in the 91st SRW.

Brotherhood - I believe we had closeness or, "brotherhood", while in the service and our yearly reunions display an ongoing brotherhood within the 91st SRWA.

Letters and Stories of Historical Significance

All of us know about the pure magic that surrounds the P 51 Mustang. There has never been any other airplane to rival the sleek lines, the unique sounds of the Rolls Royce Merlin, and certainly not the sounds of a high-speed pass. Bear with me then as I recount my few moments in the presence of this wonderful aircraft. I was stationed in Columbus, Ohio, at Lockbourne AFB and as it happens the transient aircraft parking ramp was just outside the hanger where our Jet Engine shop was located. Of course each day we would look out on the ramp to see what type A/C might be parked there. One summer morning in 1956, much to our delight we were treated to the sight of a venerable P 51 tied down not 200 feet away. I ran to get Fred Bryant (My West Virginia Buddy) and off we went for a closer look see. The plane was in the markings of the West Virginia ANG. We

weren't there five minutes when from the operations building emerged the "owner" of the 51 in the form of a full Bird Colonel. He cut a dashing figure being well over six foot with broad shoulders and a commanding presence. "Good Morning Sir" with our snappiest salutes possible. He saluted back and ask us to stand fire guard while he prepared to get underway. Fred ran down the ramp and wheeled up a large CO2 bottle. After a quick walk around the Colonel sprang up on the wing and fit himself into the cockpit. I crawled up on the wing and crouched beside cockpit, the canopy was slid back. The man just did fit into the space and his shoulders filled every inch of the width. "CHECK ME OUT" he said and began to throw switches, move controls and touch the instruments as he rattled off the pre-start from memory. In a matter of seconds he was calling "CLEAR" and hit the start switch. It was then that I realized just how close those exhaust stacks actually were and I had not the slightest idea of how much fire they might belch on start up. It didn't take long to find out as the Merlin was anxious to show it's stuff. I counted about three POPS and the big four blader did its best to blow me off the wing. But I had a death grip on the gunnel. Fortunately it was a lean start and not a lot of flame came my way. However it was clearly time to leave and I hopped off the trailing edge. Fred and I watched from a wing tip as he warmed the engine. One more signal to us to confirm we had pulled the chawks and off he went down the ramp. Several minutes later we watched that majestic Mustang lift off and in seconds more disappear.

To most people who may read this it may not seem like a very significant event, but to two nineteen year olds this was heavy duty and it left a lasting memory that I for one will always cherish. We were privileged to be in the presence of what can only be described as Greatness, and moments like that must be treasured.

Thanks for your indulgence.

Don Orend, 91st FMS Prospective Member

=====

Hello J. Bard, 3 March 2006

I saw your ad in the March issue of Military Magazine. Yes, I was with the 91st SRW (SAC, 801st Air Division) for nearly six months in the summer of 1953. I drove an ambulance for Crash-Fire-Rescue. I was with the 3415th Medical Squadron at that time. I was then

honorably discharged with the rank of A1/C (Sgt.).

I was at Lockbourne. I hear that the base was called Rickenbacker AF Base at a later date. I heard that the base is now closed. Not positive.

I do hope that this info is of some use to you. I will be 76 shortly. A lot of interesting days have come and gone in 50+ years.

Wendell Summy
RR 6 Box 157
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

Editor's note: Wendell sent along a group formation photograph taken with RB47 2235 in the background.

This and That (Also on page 8.)

MEMBER DUES

Dues for the years 2006-07 are past due as of 30 June. Unless you have paid, or are a Life Member, there should be a renewal form enclosed. Please complete the areas marked. You should consider a Paid Up For Life Membership.

Underage Veterans

If you were in military service before you became 17, and are interested in others that did the same, call 1-888-653-8867 or visit their website at:

www.oldvums.com

SAC Memorial

Being alumni of the greatest military command ever, I knew you would want to know about its moralization. Please read the attached article describing the planned Strategic Air Command Memorial.

Cold War Museum

The Cold War Museum has made great strides in honoring Cold War Veterans and preserving Cold War history. If interested, an update by Francis Gary Powers, Jr., Founder, is attached.

RV Info for Branson

FYI - Roger Shotzberger provided information RV sites. See the back of the attached registration form.

We plan to stay at the A-OK. Please share this with the group. Roger

December 12, 2005

Dear Jim,
I can finally announce that I have begun writing my belated aviation book entitled **Tornado! The Saga of America's First Jet Bomber**. Thus far five chapters are on disc and I hope to wrap things up no later than February 2006. I want to assure the guys that activities of the RB45C ((4)) within the 91st Strat Recon Wing (322nd, 323rd and 324th Sqdns.) are both covered and documented in detail. My apologies for taking so long in getting the story out but the National Archives works at a snail's pace in terms of declassifying documents. I assure you that the final product, when it emerges in print next fall, will be worth the wait.

Keep up the good work,
John C. Fredriksen, Ph.D.

NOTE: Dr. Fredriksen is an Associate Member of 91st SRW Association.

Planning Ahead

Looking for something to do this summer? Here's a handy planner:

7 - 8 July 2006

Visit to Minot ND

Several of us are planning to visit Minot and Minot AFB in 2006 in preparation for our 2007 reunion. I plan on being there about 5 - 12 July to also enjoy the base's open house. If you are interested, contact me. Jim

Members of the 91st BGMA also plan to be at Minot during this period to arrange for the transfer of memorabilia to the 91st Space Wing.

23-27 August 2006

91SRWA Reunion - Branson

For those not yet registered, a form is attached.

13-16 September 2006

91BGMA Reunion - Colorado Springs
All 91st veterans are invited to attend the 91st Bomb Group reunion at the Sheraton

91st SRW Association - Recon Recorder

in Colorado Springs (\$72 + tax). Per their President: "We would be delighted to see any of the 91st SRW folks."

This and That continues on page 8.

"War Stories"

Hi All,
Ref that passenger jet that skidded off the runway @ Chicago Midway Apt the other day (December):

It reminded me of when I was on an EB-47 flight from Lockbourne, sometime in 1961, during the winter months, around 0300, we were getting landing instructions from the tower; tower stated there were snow flurries, and the pilot in charge (Airdrome Officer) of checking the runway, reported wet runway, with good braking.

I computed our stopping distance, using our gross weight, wet runway, and our stopping distance of 7,200 feet, and relayed that info to our pilots, and our co-pilot confirmed our stopping distance.

Well, when we touched down, there was ice on the runway, and my A/C knew we were committed to landing; he tried to ground loop the aircraft to connect to the alternate right runway, but our aircraft started to slide sideways to our left, so the A/C straightened our gear to go straight ahead, and we skipped over a ditch at the end of the runway, and stopped in the mud.

Then we evacuated our positions immediately... fortunately, no damage to our aircraft, or injuries to anyone. When we all gathered together away from the bomber, we said to one another: What happened? We looked around, and the crash crew and approx. 12 personnel were out there to greet us.

Of course, there was an investigation... there was ice on the runway, and a wet runway was reported by the tower.

We were fortunate.

Submitted by: Ferris Fadel, 301st BW

Our A/C was Capt. Robert Byers, and CP was Capt. (or 1Lt) Larry McArdle. Larry died a few years later from cancer of the back. May He Rest-in-Peace.

Ferris

As you should be aware, the "91st" is now the 91st Space Wing – Proud maintainers of the Minuteman Missiles. Lt. Chris Prasch (you may remember him from the 2004 reunion) sent this along to us:

The 91 SW is thankful for you and the 91 SRW and the sacrifices you made for our country. This is the Missileer poem presented to every crew member as they begin taking alerts.

MISSILEER as written by:

Captain Robert J. Wyckoff

MISSILEER

In vacant corners of our land, off rutted gravel trails,
There is a watchful breed of men, who see that peace prevails.
For them there are no waving flags, no blare of martial tune,
There is no romance in their job, no glory at high noon.

In an oft' repeated ritual, they casually hang their locks,
Where the wage of man's love and hate, are restrained in a small red box.
In a world of flickering colored lights, and endless robot din,
The missile crews will talk awhile, but soon will turn within.

To a flash of light or other worldly tone, conditioned acts respond.
Behind each move, unspoken thoughts, of bombs that lie beyond.
They live with patient waiting, with tactics, minds infused,
And the quiet murmur of the heart, that hopes it's never used.

They feel the living throb, of their mindless tool they run,
They hear the constant whir, of a world that knows no sun.
Here light is ever present, no moon's nocturnal sway.
The clock's unnatural beat, belies no night or day.

Behind a concrete door slammed shut, no starlit skies of night,
No sun-bleached clouds in azure sky, in which to dance in flight.
But certain as the rising sun, these tacit warriors seldom see,

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They're ever grimly ready, for someone has to be.

Beneath it all they're common men, who eat and sleep and dream,
But between them is a common bond, of knowledge they're a team.
A group of men who love their land, who serve it long and well,
Who stand their thankless vigil, on the brink of man-made hell.

In boredom fluxed with stress, encapsuled they reside,
They do their job without complaint, of pleasures oft' denied,
For duty, honor, country and a matter of self-pride.

(5)

Life Time Membership Club

The Association's Treasurer (Stan Kopala) suggested we publish a list of the "Prestigious" Life Membership Club. I immediately realized it was past due; so you'll find the list attached on page 7.

Ruth's Kitchen

Spinach-Stuffed Chicken Breast
Prep Time: 25 minutes
Total Time: 1 hour
Makes: 6 servings, 1 stuffed chicken breast each

- 1 1/2 Cups Water
- 6 Tbsp. Kraft Roasted Red Pepper Italian with Parmesan Dressing, divided
- 1 Pkg. (10 oz.) spinach leaves, stems removed, chopped
- 1 Pkg. (6 oz.) Stove Top Stuffing Mix for Chicken
- 1/4 Cup coarsely chopped roasted red peppers
- 6 Small boneless skinless chicken breast halves (1-1/2 lb.), pounded to 1/4-inch thickness
- 1/2 Cup Kraft Shredded Mozzarella Cheese

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Bring water and 2 Tbsp. of the dressing to boil in large skillet on medium-high heat. Stir in spinach, stuffing mix and peppers; cover. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 min. Set aside.

PLACE chicken, topsides down, on large cutting board; spread evenly with stuffing mixture. Starting at one of the short ends, tightly roll up each chicken breast. Place,

seam-sides down, in 13x9-inch baking dish. Brush with remaining 1/4 cup (4 Tbsp.) dressing.

BAKE 30 min. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake an additional 5 min. or until cheese is melted and chicken is cooked through (170°F).

See: Kraftfoods.com

MEMORABILIA SALES
Art Schocken - Quartermaster

You may contact me via e-mail, snail mail, or telephone:

91SRWA Challenge Coin - \$25
Polo Shirts - \$25 M, L, XL, 2X, 3X
Sweat shirts \$25 M, L, XL, 2X, 3X
Hats - \$8.50 - Blue or White

Here's how it works:

You place your order with me (send no money). **PLEASE – Be sure to specify the size(s) and hat color.** I'll determine the item(s) cost and postage fees, and insert a bill with your merchandise. (Postage is generally \$3 per shirt / hat. Hats ordered with shirts do little to raise the cost of postage. Coins are sent postage free.) You send a check to Stan Kopala.

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91SRWA Statutory Agent

The 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association is incorporated as "Not For Profit" by the State of Ohio. The corporation's Statutory Agent is: Carl D. Dawalt, 7059 Tall Timber Trail, Enon, OH 45323-1557.

MEMBERS' NOTES

Members may submit short announcements and articles for inclusion.

THE RECON RECORDER - Copyright [1 July 2006 by 91st SRW Association]

The "RECON RECORDER" is the official publication of the 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association. This newsletter is to keep our members informed about the organization, its activities, and pertinent related information. Original recipients for their individual use may reproduce the Recon Recorder entirely or in part.

Editor/Publisher – Jim Bard

As the association's Secretary, I solicit, accept and review items to publish. Send your input to me at: 3424 Nottingham Road, Westminster, MD 21157-8304 or e-mail jimbardjr@adelphia.net (Phone: 410-549-1094)

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR WARRIORS IN HARM'S WAY.

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Membership Numbers

58 Founding Members (4 PUFL)
124 Members (21 PUFL)
2 Associate Members
1 Patron (Nonmember)
1 Honorary Life Associate
10 Life Associate Members
196 Active Participants

**The Cold War Museum
Spring Update 2006**

Over the past nine years, the Cold War Museum has made great strides in honoring Cold War Veterans and preserving Cold War history. However, the work has just begun and we need to continue our fundraising efforts in order to build The Cold War Museum and Memorial. I am writing to provide you with a brief update on the Museum's activities and to ask that you make a tax-deductible donation to the Cold War Museum. If you know of friends or family members that would be interested in our efforts, please share this update with them or encourage them to visit www.coldwar.org.

We are at a critical stage of our development. Fairfax County Park Authority is reviewing our second phase proposal to locate at the former Nike Missile Base in Lorton, Virginia and negotiations are underway to occupy the site in the Fall. We expect to sign a lease soon. Delegate Vince Callahan has put forth a 2006 non-state agency grant request. Last year, the Museum received a \$125,000 Virginia State grant. We need your continued financial help now in order to realize the full potential of these grants.

The Cold War Museum is an affiliate with the Smithsonian Institution. As a result, it has pledges of support for artifact loans from Smithsonian Air and Space, American History, National Portrait, and US Postal Museums. The Museum is working with the Historical Electronics Museum in Maryland and the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC to temporarily display artifacts from its collection.

The mobile exhibit on the U-2 Incident, the "Spies of Washington Tour," and book signing lectures continue to generate interest and support. The mobile exhibit is currently available for display. If you would like to book the exhibit, please contact the Museum. The educational "Spies of Washington Tour" (www.spytour.com) now includes an optional stop at the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC. Public tours will begin again in March 2006. The Cold War Museum is in negotiations with the National Archives to produce a Cold War lecture series in the near future.

The Museum will host a Fall 2006 conference on "1956: The Hungarian and Poland Crises." Sergei Khrushchev is expected to participate and VIPs from those respective countries are invited to serve on panels. Coordinating sponsors include Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, Lorton's South County High School, and the Hungarian Technology Center. The conference, scheduled to coincide with the Museum's groundbreaking, will take place in October. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Former Secretary of the USAF, Tom Reed; Sergei Khrushchev, son of the former Soviet Premier; Dino Brugioni, renowned photographic interpreter; Joe Lentini, USS Liberty Survivor; and Delegate Dave Albo, who represents Lorton serve on the Museum's Advisory Board. Our Congressman, the Honorable Tom M. Davis, III (11th Virginia), is working to assist the museum at the Federal level. The museum continues its involvement with the Combined Federal Campaign, which allows Federal government and military employees to donate to the Museum directly through payroll deduction.

Please consider supporting the Cold War Museum. Your gift will help us plan for the new physical location. Tax-deductible contributions and artifact donations to the Museum will ensure that future generations will remember Cold War events and personalities that forever altered our understanding of national security, international relations, and personal sacrifice for one's country. Please help spread the word about the Museum. Together we can make this vision a reality. If you should have any questions, want additional information, or would like to subscribe to our Cold War Times email newsletter distribution list, please contact:

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The Cold War Museum

Spring/Summer Update 2006

Over the past nine years, the Cold War Museum has made great strides in honoring Cold War Veterans and preserving Cold War history. However, the work has just begun and we need to continue our fundraising efforts in order to build The Cold War Museum and Memorial. I am writing to provide you with a brief update on the Museum's activities and to ask that you make a tax-deductible donation to the Cold War Museum. If you know of friends or family members that would be interested in our efforts, please share this update with them and encourage them to visit www.coldwar.org.

We are at a critical stage of our development. Fairfax County Park Authority is reviewing our second phase proposal to locate at the former Nike Missile Base in Lorton, Virginia and negotiations are underway to occupy the site as early as this fall. Delegate Vince Callahan has put forth a 2006 non-state agency grant request. Last year, the Museum matched a \$125,000 Virginia State grant. We need your help to match our state grant again this year.

The Cold War Museum is an affiliate with the Smithsonian Institution. As a result, it has pledges of support for artifact loans from Smithsonian Air and Space, American History, National Portrait, and US Postal Museums. The Museum is working with the Spy Museum in Washington, DC to temporarily display artifacts.

The mobile exhibit on the U-2 Incident, the "Spies of Washington Tour," and book signing lectures continue to generate interest and support. The mobile exhibit is currently on display at the Southwest Virginia Museum in Big Stone Gap, Virginia through October 10, 2006. If you would like to book the exhibit, please contact the Museum. The educational "Spies of Washington Tour" (www.spytour.com) now includes an optional stop at the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC. Our next public tour is May 27, 2006. The Cold War Museum is in negotiations with the National Archives to produce a Cold War lecture series in the near future.

October 13-15, we are planning a groundbreaking ceremony in conjunction with a conference on the 1956 Hungarian and Polish Crises. Sergei Khrushchev, the son of Nikita Khrushchev, Mr. Laszlo Rajk, the son of an executed Communist leader of Hungary, and a representative from the Polish Embassy will be participating. In addition, there will be a book signing and a panel comprised of Nike Missile veterans that will discuss the history of the Nike missile program with specific insight into Lorton site history. Coordinating sponsors include Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, Lorton's South County High School, Marriott, and the Hungarian Technology Center. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

I am pleased to announce that Congressman Tom Davis (11th Virginia), and Fairfax County Board of Supervisor Chairman, Jerry Connolly have both agreed to serve on the Museum's Advisory Board. They will join former Secretary of the USAF, Tom Reed; Sergei Khrushchev; Dino Brugioni, renowned photographic interpreter; Joe Lentini, USS Liberty Survivor; and Delegate Dave Albo, who represents Lorton on the Museum's Advisory Board. Congressman Davis is working to assist the museum at the Federal level. The museum continues its involvement with the Combined Federal Campaign, which allows Federal government and military employees to donate to the Museum directly through payroll deduction.

If you know of friends or family members that would be interested in our efforts, please share this update with them or encourage them to visit www.coldwar.org. Tax-deductible contributions and artifact donations to the Museum will ensure that future generations will remember Cold War events and personalities that forever altered our understanding of national security, international relations, and personal sacrifice for one's country. Please help spread the word about the Museum. Together we can make this vision a reality. If you should have any questions, want additional information, or would like to subscribe to our Cold War Times email newsletter distribution list, please contact:

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This and That – Continued from page 4

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN GOLD MEDAL BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

11 April 2006 - President Bush Gives Final Approval to Congressman Rangel's Legislation Conferring Highest Congressional Award on African-American WWII Heroes

The legislation conferring the Congressional Gold Medal on the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their heroism in World War II was signed into law today, Congressman Charles Rangel announced.

"This is the culmination of a huge effort by many people to grant the recognition to the Tuskegee Airmen that they have earned and so well deserve," Congressman Rangel said. "I especially want to thank Senator Carl Levin of Michigan who carried this bill successfully in the Senate and worked with me every step of the way to get us to this day."

President George Bush signed the bill at 10:00 a.m. today in a private bill signing at the White House. The House of Representatives passed it in its final version on February 28, 2006, and by the Senate on March 27th.

The Gold Medal, Congress' most distinguished civilian award, will be presented to the Tuskegee Airmen, collectively, in ceremonies in the U.S. Capitol rotunda in Washington, D.C. later this year. As authorized under the law, the President will present the specially designed Gold Medal on behalf of Congress. Designed by the U.S. Mint, the award medal containing 15-ounces of gold will be housed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, and made available for temporary display at museums around the country. Bronze replicas will be stamped for public sale.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of 994 African American pilots who gained fame during WWII for their heroism escorting American bombers in raids over Europe and North Africa. Their distinguished service is credited with influencing President Truman to desegregate the U.S. military. Among the surviving Airmen living in New York are: educator Roscoe Brown, broadcast executive Percy Sutton, and business executive Lee Archer.

At least two 91st SRW veterans served with the Tuskegee Airmen:
Lindsey R. Hardiman (D) Robert Peebles

Gathering of Mustangs & Legends

Rickenbacker Int'l Airport located in Columbus, Ohio has been selected as the host airport for the Gathering of Mustangs & Legends to be held September 27 – 30, 2007.

More in the next issue...

I seem to remember an RB-47E 53-838 in the 323rd SRS, at Lockbourne, crewed by SSgt Ron Day from South Dakota. He doesn't remember me, I have found, but I remember him, as we both were TDY to RAF Upper Heyford in May & June of 1960. He had the only 53 model in the Sqdn and it didn't seem to break as often as the 52 models. Us young two stripe second wipers liked to work with him because he was nice to us and didn't look or talk down to us. There were others like him as well. Mike Skinner, Joe Patane, Angie DeFelice, Tom Saff, Marcus Mitchell and others whose names escape me now. Well, I won't take any more of your time now with my reminiscing. Hope to see you in Branson.

Bill Gauger

You are really close on the tail number. It was B-47E, 53-238. **Ron**

In 1950 or 51 we had an RB-45 depart from Carswell AFB enroute back to Barksdale. Immediately after take off the aircraft encountered the mother of all tailwinds. I can't recall which Squadron the bird belonged to but the pilot was a Lt. Bublitz. From the time of departure until touchdown the elapsed time was a little more than 13 minutes. The speed of the RB was computed to be in excess of 889 MPH. It was a record for level flight for a while. The one person who might recall this event is possibly Art Schocken.

Arthur Wilson

The Reunion – by Rachel Firth

Autumn leaves, rustling to the appointed place, the old warriors come.
Pilgrims, drifting across the land they fought to preserve.
Where they meet is not so important any more...
They meet and that's enough for now.

Greetings echo across the lobby.
Hands reach out and arms draw buddies close.
Embraces, that as young men they were too uncomfortable to give,
too shy to accept so lovingly.

But, deep within these Indian Summer days
they have reached a greater understanding of life and love.
The shells holding their souls are weaker now,
but hearts and minds grow vigorous remembering.

On a table someone spreads old photographs; a test of recollection.
And friendly laughter echoes at shocks of hair gone gray or white, or merely gone.
The slender bodies lost forever.
Yet they no longer need to prove their strength.

Some are now sustained by one of "medicine's miracles,"
and even in this fact they manage to find humor.
The women, all those who waited, all those who love them, have watched the changes take place.
Now they observe and listen, and smile at each other, as glad to be together as the men.

Talks turn to war and planes and foreign lands.
Stories are told and told again,
reweaving the threadbare fabric of the past.
Mending one more time the banner of their youth.

They hear the vibrations, feel the shudder of metal as propellers whine and swirl,
and planes come to life.
These birds with fractured wings can see beyond the mist of clouds,
and they are in the air again, chasing the wind, feeling the exhilaration of flight, close to the heavens,
the wild and blue yonder of their anthem.

Dead comrades, hearing their names spoken, wanting to share in this time, if only in spirit,
move silently among them.
Their presence is felt and smiles appear beneath misty eyes.
Each, in his own way, may wonder who will be absent another year.

The room grows quiet for a time.
Suddenly an ember flames to life. Another memory burns.
The talk may turn to other wars and other men,
and of futility. So, this is how it goes.

The past is ever present.
In their ceremonies, the allegiances, the speeches,
and the prayers, one cannot help but hear the deep
eternal love of country they will forever share.

Finally it is time to leave.
Much too soon to set aside this little piece of yesterday,
but the past cannot be held too long for it is fragile.

They say "Farewell...See you next year, God willing,"
breathing prayers for one another.
Each keeping a little of the others with him forever.



TO: VETERANS AND FRIENDS OF THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

As some of you might be aware, about a year ago a number of Air Force veterans began to discuss the possibility of erecting a fitting memorial to the Strategic Air Command. The site was to be the world-renowned National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio.

What followed were in-depth meetings and discussions with the Director and staff of the Museum, with a premier monument design and construction firm and with individual SAC veterans and various SAC component organizations throughout the Country. We are pleased that we can now share with you final plans for this project.

Included below are a fact sheet and other material relating to the overall project, and a narrative description of the SAC Memorial. Also included are design pictures.

We are now entering the fundraising phase of this endeavor. Since this is strictly a voluntary grassroots effort, we want to keep the process as uncomplicated and straightforward as possible. In the interest of time and simplicity, we hope that the main fundraising effort can occur through the various SAC component associations. Individual SAC veterans are encouraged to participate through these groups. No administrative costs are involved. All funds received will be strictly earmarked for the design and construction of the memorial.

For further information please contact the Project Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Ron

Ron Resh

Enclosure

SAC MEMORIAL PROJECT

Fact Sheet

What	A grassroots effort by individual SAC veterans and SAC component organizations to erect a prominent national memorial to the Strategic Air Command.
Where	To be located in the Memorial Park at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio.
When	Initial planning and design are completed. The project is now in the fundraising stage. We hope to finish construction in time for dedication in the year 2007.
By Whom	As stated, the overall project is a grassroots endeavor by concerned SAC veterans committed to perpetuating the memory and legacy of the Strategic Air Command. A nationally recognized firm, Dodds Monuments of Xenia, Ohio, is doing the design and construction of the memorial. Dodds is well known to many of our SAC component organizations, having been responsible for the majority of the premier monuments located at the NMUSAF.
Description	The memorial will be a strikingly handsome ten feet tall, six feet wide two-sided granite monument with the SAC emblem displayed as its most prominent feature. Wording on the monument will depict the dates of service and mottos of SAC as well as SAC's role in securing victory in the Cold War.
Funding Goal	Initial funding needed to proceed with the project is \$25,000.
Payment	Checks should be made payable to: "Dodds Monuments—SAC Memorial Project." Payments should be sent to: SAC Memorial Project c/o Ron Resh, Coordinator 10825 Bucknell Drive Silver Spring, Maryland 20902-4325

(FINAL APPROVED CONCEPT)

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SAC MEMORIAL

OVERALL IMPRESSION – As depicted in the virtual design prepared by Dodds Monuments of Xenia, Ohio, the memorial would be large enough and prominent enough to serve as a fitting tribute to the Strategic Air Command. SAC was the major combat component and nuclear weapons arm of the United States Air Force throughout the Cold War. The memorial would be striking to the eye, with a minimal amount of wording chosen carefully to

impart the important mission and significant achievement of the Command. The dimensions of the memorial would be compatible with other memorials to SAC units already located in the Memorial Park at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The SAC memorial would be ten feet in height from the ground to the top of the memorial. Width measured at the SAC emblem would be six feet.

SAC EMBLEM - The shield of the Strategic Air Command would be the most prominent feature and focal point of the memorial. As designed by Dodds, it would be noticeably large and easily visible from a distance. The shield would appear on both sides of the memorial.

MATERIAL - The memorial would be constructed from polished black granite, the material most often used in the more significant monuments located in the Memorial Park.

LETTERING – Style and size of lettering would be proportionate to the overall size of the memorial. Keeping in mind that the SAC shield should remain the most prominent feature of the memorial, the limited wording would be large enough and bold enough to make a strikingly simple yet powerful statement.

WORDING - On what would be considered the front side of the memorial, in addition to the SAC shield, there would appear the wording, "STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND -1946-1992" "PEACE IS OUR PROFESSION." It was the overwhelming feeling of various SAC units and individual SAC veterans who reviewed the preliminary plans that this wording should be presented in the present tense just as it was throughout the days of SAC's official existence. In their hearts and minds, these veterans continue to consider themselves to be members of SAC, which for them remains very much alive, and they feel that peace is still their profession.

In April 2005, in a meeting to discuss the preliminary concept for a SAC memorial, General Metcalf, Director of the Museum, suggested that we consider for the rear side of the memorial wording that describes SAC and the significant role it played in our national defense posture. We appreciate and have followed through on the General's suggestion. In addition to the SAC shield, there would appear this wording on the rear side of the memorial, "THE COLD WAR DIDN'T JUST END...IT WAS WON." "IN JUNE 1992 THE STRONGEST MOST PROFESSIONAL MILITARY ORGANIZATION THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN FURLED ITS BANNER AND BID FAREWELL TO A GRATEFUL NATION WHOSE FREEDOM IT HAD SAFEGUARDED FOR NEARLY HALF A CENTURY. THE SPIRIT, SACRIFICE AND DEDICATION OF THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND ENDURES IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THOSE WHO SERVED. WE ARE...VICTORS IN THE COLD WAR"

WALKWAY - A concrete walkway would surround the SAC Memorial, making both sides accessible to all.

DESIGN PICTURES:

FRONT VIEW



BACK VIEW

