

Volume 36, Issue 4

Editor: Stephen C. Ananian



Happy Hanukkah!

Stephen Ananian and the Board of Directors of the 339th TGA

Our 37th Annual Reunion!



(L-R) Bill Clark, William MacClarence Duncan Willard, Larry Powell, Bill Moore, Stephen Ananian, two Air Force Buglers, Father Michael Kreutzer and Jane Leach, event director.

Photo Mark Donagain

We did it again!

By William Clark, Reunion Chairman

It you weren't there you missed a good one! We had four Brits, nine members of the Bevelhymer family, a Norwegian, a Dane, five 339^{th} vets, and forty-four registered Attendees!

The Air Force Museum was fantastic and we were given a personalized tour of the WWII exhibit and access to the P-51 Mustang on display. The vets were seen zipping around the museum on motorized carts and most of us went back later for another look at the planes. There is more to see there than can be covered in a week so we only scratched the surface of the exhibits.

We held a solemn memorial service at the outdoor site

of the 339th FGA memorial and the Group donated Red Maple tree we planted 25 years ago. We recalled all those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war and all those members who had passed since. It was a very moving ceremony performed by Father Michael Kreutzer ending with two Air Force buglers playing taps.

The next day we took a bus tour of Dayton and surroundings visiting the Wright Brothers Memorial, which had a short video story of the lives brothers and accomplishments, and then



Mark Donagain, Larry Powell and David Izzard Photo Mark Donagain

to Huffman Prairie, the field where the Wrights developed their flying techniques. This was followed by a lunch at a very unique downtown ethnic smorgasbord, and then visited the Dayton Cemetery, where the Wright family plot is located. - A lovely place!

On Saturday night we had the highlight of the reunion for many. It was the event we had planned to replace our usual unit dinner. The Gem City Band, a local band of musicians and performers put on a magnificent show of Glenn Miller and patriotic music. We had a dance floor, which was well used. A couple of the vets got out and "Cut a Rug" to everyone's delight.

Our Sunday activities included the Board of Directors Meeting and General Membership Meeting where it was decided/announced that the next reunion will be held back in Milwaukee. The primary rationale for this location is that we have two vets, Jerry Graham and Dick Thieme, that Continued next page



The Veterans of Fowlmere that were there (L-R) Bill Moore, Bill, Perry Larry Powell, William MacClarence and Stephen Ananian.

Photo Mark Donagain

live in the area, and who could make it to the reunion if we held it there.

The banquet was the usual good eats, so-so entertainment, introduction of guests, and remembrance of those recently passed. We presented our guests with certificates and bestowed on them Honorary Membership to the 339^{th}

Fighter Group Association and a printed copy of the 339th history.

Our Brits continue to be a lively lot and surprised each Veteran with literally a piece of the WWII Fowlmere runway mounted and inscribed. (See pgs. 16-17) We just gave them an American flag to fly at Fowlmere so I think we got the better of that exchange. Lucy-May Maxwell of the American Air Museum at Duxford gave the Keynote Address and did an admirable job in giving us a greater appreciation for the Air Museum in Duxford.

England. All in all it was a memorable reunion, well attended, and one we will be remembering for years to come.

Reunion Photos!



L-R Ray Ellis, Bill MacClarence, Mark Donagain, David Izzard and Steve Ananian. Bill proudly displays his gift from our British friends - a piece of the Steel runway from Fowlmere. Photo Mark Donagain



Color Guard in rear and Veterans of Fowlmere in front. (L-R) Stephen Ananian, Bill Perry, Bill Moore, Larry Powell and William MacClarence.

Photo Linda Moore



503rd Pilot Buried at Arlington!



Horse drawn caisson holds the flag draped casket with military color guard and family following.

Photo John Roach

Robert Frisch's Military Funeral

By John Roach



The Urn with Bob's Ashes

Photo John Roach

Bob Frisch's funeral was well attended by family and friends from all over the country. He is buried in plot 1491 of section 71. It is a new area, close to the Pentagon and the Reagan National flight path. There was a caisson, honor guard, and band to accompany us for the last quarter mile to his grave site. The urn containing his ashes reflected what he loved in life. There was a big fish hook on the side of the urn and a simple sign, "Gone Fishin".

Rest In Peace Bob!





Dancing to Glenn Miller!





Carolyn Benum and Steve Ananian dancing at the Savoy! Photo Linda Moore



Sharon and Bill Clark "Cut a Rug!"

Photo Linda Moore



Kathy Van Treeck and Bill MacClarence dancing with Glenn Miller!

Photo Linda Moore



Lucy-May Maxwell and Thomas Roach show us how it's done!

Photo Linda Moore



More Photos!





Veterans motorized wheel chair formation at Air Force Museum. Photo Linda



Tressa Marbach and Ray Ellis enjoying the music. *Photo Linda Moore*





Silver Star recipient, Col. Duncan Wilburn and his long-time buddy, Larry Powell pose for us at the Museum. *Photo Linda Moore*



Editor's Gorner

By Stephen Ananian, Editor/pilot 505th FS

On October 3rd 2016 our good friend Maurice Hammond crash landed his P-51, "Janie" and was badly injured. Maurice is recovering at home now and we pray for his speedy and complete recovery!

What a busy month we have had. The 37th Annual Reunion of the 339th Fighter Group Association has just come to a successful conclusion. We had four guests from the United Kingdom and I can report a truly



Stephen Ananian

great time was had by all. We had five Veterans of Fowlmere in attendance, forty-four registered attendees which included four first time attendees. Larry Powell brought his long time friend and Veteran, Col. Duncan Wilburn. Also in attendance and registered a WWII enthusiast Richard Coyer who is now listed as a Friend of the 339th FGA. Also in attendance for the first time was my friend, pilot and aviation enthusiast from Texas, Steve Haktanir.

Steve is also listed as a "Friend of the 339th FGA" and was presented with a Certificate of membership! A surprise friend and also a Veteran of the Afghanistan Conflict Greg Cumbey was in attendance. Greg brought Champaign for all to enjoy and asked to be placed on our mailing list to receive our newsletter!

Two days after my return from Dayton I was off to New Orleans to take part in the National WWII Museum's WWII Air Show. I was an invited guest once again and had one fantastic stay. I was invited to fly in a P-51 once again after seventy some years. What a thrill! The pilot Larry Lumpkin showed me one heck of a ride including four barrel rolls!



That's me seated in back of C.A.F. Mustang, "Gunfighter". *Photo Cas Puccio*

It brought back many memories of years gone by flying up-side down in a Mustang! They had to force me to get out of the cockpit! I was on "Cloud Nine".

I returned home and a few days later I was invited to attend the Veteran's Day ceremonies at the Sevier Middle School here in Greenville, SC. This was the 20^{th} year I have been attending these memorable events. This year they honored me by naming me "Veteran of The Year" and presenting me with the "Quilt of Valor". This was an honor that I did not deserve but I accepted it for all our comrades that are no longer with us!

Thank you Mrs. Roberta Anderson and the staff and students of the Seveier Middle School for always remembering and honoring our Veterans! FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

"The Good Lord Willing," I will celebrate my 94th birthday on Christmas Day!

M Merry Christmas M

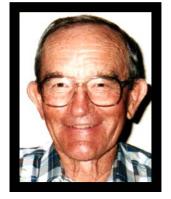
SN O H

NEWSLETTER of the 339 Fighter Group Association December 1, 2016

We mourn our loss - - -









William J. Raines

Bernie A. Allen

DECEASED:-

William J. Raines, **Sr.** 505th Control Tower Communications age 94, passed away on Sunday October 16th, 2016 peacefully with his family by His side. He was proud to have served in WWII with the 339th fighter group.

William served in the U.S. Air Force from 1945 to 1991. After WWII he was an active member in the Reserve Officers Association for 30 years earning the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After returning from service, he graduated from Muhlenberg College, and also received a diploma from the Air War College in Gettysburg.

William is survived by his wife Theodora Raines, two sons, William A. Raines and Richard J. Raines and four grandchildren: Christine Raines, Carolyn Raines, Ellen Weitzel, and David Raines. He was preceded in death by a brother, John J. Raines.

In his spare time he was an active member in the Lions club, volunteering at the Lititz Welcome Center, golfing, flying single engine airplanes, traveling and attending 339th FGA Reunions. William was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lititz, PA.

- Richard Raines, son -

Bernice Albert Allen, pilot 503rd FS, I am sorry to say, he died peacefully this morning, Monday October 31st 2016 at the age of 96. He graduated Enterprise High School and attended Copiah-Lincoln College until the outbreak of WWII. An Air Force veteran of WWII and Korea he retired as a Lt. Colonel after 26 years of service. While serving in England during WWII he flew 59 combat missions in the P-51 Mustang.

Take care,

- Gayle Allen Freeman, daughter -

Our condolences to all the families on their loss.



In Alemorium

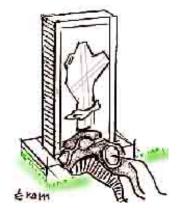


The following have donated monies in memory of their loved ones:-

\$500 In memory of 503rd pilot Lt Col Carl E Cloud by his daughter Carla.

\$100 in memory of the 339th members that flew with 505th pilot Tom Marvel by John and Nancy Roach and family.

\$100 In memory of Richard, Donald and Shirley Olander, 505th pilot and family by Catherine and Terry Van Treeck.



\$60 In memory of Edward Purzycki Base Defense by his devoted companion Gigi Marcial.

\$50 in memory of Laird Travis, 505th pilot by Colleen Travis.

\$50 in memory of Roland E. Gousie, 505th pilot by his devoted wife Claire.

\$40 In memory of Elmer Steven 505th Teletype Mechanic by his devoted wife Dorothy.



Donations

\$100 George Joe, \$60 Lawrence Powell, \$50 William MacClarence, \$50 Greg Vallero, \$50 S. Ananian, \$45 William Clark, \$40 Bayard Lawes, \$35 Joan Johnson, \$30 James Bashford, \$25 Thomas Fleming, \$25 Don Wallner, \$25 Frank Knapp

We thank you all for your generous donations.







Frank Knapp, Bill MacClarence and Linda Moore say "Cheers" Photo Mark Donagain



The Mail Bag



John Henry's daughter, Anne Bevelhymer writes:-



C-46, "Dumbo" can be seen parked behind P-51 at the Air Force Museum, the plane that Herb Bevelhymer's father flew over the "Hump" years ago!

Hello Stephen,

My sons and grandchildren all had a good time meeting the fighter pilots who worked with their grandfather/great grandfather during WWII.

Don't know if Herb told you his father flew the Hump during WWII, and his plane, C-46 (Old Dumbo), was parked right next to the P-51 at the museum.

Outside the museum, we found the C-46 war memorial in the same row, about six trees away from the P-51 memorial. The granddaughters also enjoyed seeing the planes Herb flew during his career—C-141, RF-4 Phantom, B-52, and KC-135 Tanker. Herb actually flew the C-141 that is now in the museum. That particular plane is called the "Hanoi Taxi" because it brought home the first group of POW's from Hanoi at the end of the Viet Nam War.

So glad the Brits - - - Ray, Mark, David, and Lucy-May - - - were able to attend this year. Along with our fighter pilots, they helped make the reunion very special.

As you requested, I will start recording the personal stories about growing up with my dad.

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The actual C-141 "Hanoi Taxi" that Herb Bevelhymer flew was also at the Museum.

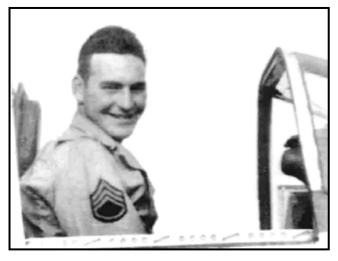
I'll ask John to do the same.

Love, Anne

Thank you for sharing your story with us. Seeing you all at our Reunion was such a pleasure.



Mark Donagain sends this news from Fowlmere.



S/Sgt Ronald Epstein, Crew Chief



Iris and Mark Frank at 339th Museum

Hi Steve 9/20/2016

Hope you are keeping well,

We had a visit from Iris Frank and her husband Mark, Iris is Sandy Adelman's sister, and there father was Ronald Epstein, crew chief in the 505th.

MEWSLETTER of the 339 Fighter Group Association December 1, 2016

Iris got a bit emotional when she arrived at the airfield, she couldn't believe she was here at Fowlmere, where her father was all those years ago, bless her.

She loves what we are trying to do at Fowlmere airfield, and thanked me and Dave so much with a big hug.

She didn't know about the 339th Association and she has only seen one or two newsletters, from her brother, I will send her the latest one, and we have some photos of her dad she hasn't seen before, so I'll send them too.

Here is her email address-

ifrank53@yahoo.com

Maybe you could contact her about joining the 339th Association. See photos of Iris

Its a shame she couldn't stay longer, I would have loved to show her around the airfield a lot more, but she had to get back to London.

Which Fowlmere vets will be at the reunion so that we can ask them questions about the air field when we get to Dayton Ohio. Maybe then we can find



Iris and Mark Frank at the Fowlmere monument

the pot of gold that your lot has hidden in the ground?

Many thanks, Blue skies Mark and Dave

Thanks fellows for sharing that story with us! I contacted Iris and she is on our Mailing list.

** **

The following email from 504th pilot's uncle Francis Froidevaux in France:-

Good afternoon Mr. Ananian, 9/1/2016 Thank you for sending me your 339^h FG paper regularly.

I'm sending you two pictures of my pilot's jacket .I've had it painted to my nephew Myer Winkleman's colors. I'll send you soon a CD relating to the illumination of the cemetery of Epinal showing a candle on each grave. Thanks for all again.

Francis Froidevaux

What a beautiful painting Francis!



Picture of 5Q-B painted on pilot's jacket



Another note from Mark Donagain in England. Mark writes:-

Thank you Steve

I Hope you are well,

I've been getting a wreath and some flowers ready for Armistice Day, I will lay them tomorrow at 11am, at the memorial, I will be thinking of you all past and present,

Blue skies

Mark

For our Non-European readers, Veteran's Day is still celebrated as Armistice Day in England. The following Sunday is known as Memorial Sunday.



339th Never Forgotten

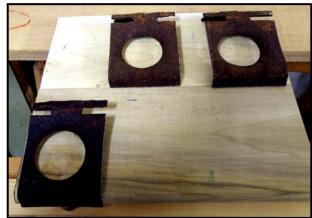


Mark Donagain explains how the gift of Steel Runway to us Vets came about. He writes:-



Section of original Steel Planking





Sections placed on English Oak.

Hi Steve,

Here's how I did the pieces of runway that you guys have.

I cut the pieces out and cleaned and lacquered them, and then Dave got some English Oak, and shaped it to the shape we needed, and lacquered them,

Then I made about 14 phone calls to see how we can get them to USA, without being stopped by customs, so rang the US embassy, to see how we go about getting them there.

Out of all the people I rang, he was the only one who knew what I was talking about and he said thank you for doing that for our veterans.

Anyway Dave took five and I took five in our suitcases with a letter and photos of what they were and where they were going.

But the main thing is that you guys got a piece of steel runway from Fowlmere airfield back in 1944-45. Blue skies **Mark**



This section of Steel planking that was from the original runway at Fowlmere was presented as a gift to the "Lads from Fowlmere" from the "New Lads".

Photo Mark Donagain

Thank you Mark for all the trouble you went through to please us! How kind of you!

You have succeeded! We are deeply moved, thank you!



Roster Changes

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

Change: -

Herman Mondschein, 18th Weather-weather-man 5901 W 107th Street Apt 239, Overland Park, KS 66207-3880 **James Pappas**, 503rd Nephew of Baker 3070 Penny Lane, Johns Island SC29455-8760



Delete: - Walter Edwards, & Michael Cotter,



339th Fighter Group Association Board of Directors

John B. Henry, Commander Stephen C. Ananian President & Secretary –
William R. MacClarence, Vice President - Richard G. Thieme, Treasurer –
William Clark, Jr., Reunion Coordinator –
Sharon Clark, Hospitality Room Coordinator
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Newsletter Editor

Stephen C. Ananian - Phone (864) 288-2599 Email: - stephen.ananian@339fg.com Linda Moore - Staff photographer



We are on the Internet

339th Home page: - www.339thfg.com "Little Friends" at - www.littlefriends.co.uk Ananian Family site – www.ananian.com



Dues for 2016 are only \$10 for all!

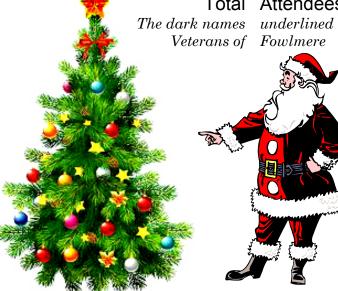
Newsletter Circulation is 494 – USA 174+ (272 Email), Overseas26+ (22 Email)

2016 Reunion Attendees

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<u>Ananian</u>	<u>Stephen</u>	<u>505</u>	Knapp	Frank	504
Bashford	James	505	Lorentsen	Lene	HQ
Benum	Carolyn	504	Mac Clarence	Tom	505
Benum	Robert	504	Mac Clarence	<u>William</u>	<u>505</u>
Bevelhymer	Anne	HQ	Marbach	Tressa	504
Bevelhymer	Beth	HQ	Maxwell	Lucy May	IWM
Bevelhymer	Emily	HQ	Moore	Linda	505
Bevelhymer	Herb	HQ	<u>Moore</u>	<u>William</u>	<u>505</u>
Bevelhymer	JoAnn	HQ	<u>Perry</u>	<u>Bill</u>	<u>503</u>
Bevelhymer	Lowell	HQ	Perry	Lova	503
Bevelhymer	Sarah	HQ	<u>Powell</u>	<u>Larry</u>	<u>505</u>
Bevelhymer	Stephen	HQ	Roach	John	505
Bevelhymer	Trevor	HQ	Roach	Nancy	505
Clark	Bill	HQ	Roach	Thomas	505
Clark	Sharon	HQ	Rosati	Deb	505
Coyer	Richard	F-339	Rosati	Jim	505
Donagain	Mark	UK	Stabell	Jan	HQ
Ellis	Ray	UK	Van Treeck	Kathy	505
Fleming	Gail	HQ	Van Treeck	Terry	505
Fleming	Tom	HQ	Verhil	Jack	505
Haktanir	Steve	505	Wilburn	Duncan	505
Izzard	David	UK	Williams	Tony	504
			Vallero	Greg	AT-6
	Visitors		** Total	Attendees	45

Fulton Hal & Mrs. Cumbey Greg







are the

339th Fighter Group Association, Inc.

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



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To: Mailing Address



A ----- MAILING LIST UPDATE FORM -----

Have you paid your Dues for this year?

Check your name and address on the mailing label. Make certain it is correct. If not, fill out this form and mail to the return address above.

If you wish to pay dues please use this form to do so.

☐ Please send newsletters by conventional mail. ☐ Please continue sending newsletters by E-mail – (My Email address is below) ☐ Please accept my donation of \$10 for my annual dues for the 339 th FGA. (Tax Exempt)										
NAME										
ADDRESS	First	Middle		Last						
CITY		ST.	ATE	ZIP						
E-MAIL address	3									
PHONE (if you	ı wish)									