



**6th Bomb Group
Association**

**TINIAN ISLAND
1944 - 45**

**JANUARY
2015**



BALTIMORE - WHERE FUN WAS HAD WITH A FEW SURPRISES!

Great weather, great food and even greater friends with a few nice surprises thrown in! That's how Tom Ritter and Nancy Webster Zander would describe the 6th Bomb Group Reunion weekend in Baltimore, Maryland this past September. As with so many reunions before, Thursday night started the weekend off with old friends reuniting and new friends being made. Our thought was to have enough heavy appetizers and liquid refreshments that people would socialize and relax in our Hospitality Suite that was ours for the weekend and not need to go anywhere for dinner. We accomplished our goal serving homemade Crab Dip with soft pretzels as well as other hearty appetizers.

Since it was the 200th Anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner written at our own Fort McHenry we knew this was a must see for Friday. As we gathered all the Veterans in front of a large flag that was hung on the wall of the lobby entrance to the Fort, they became instant celebrities as cameras came out, not only from our group but also from the other bystanders as they learned they were WWII Veterans! It warmed your heart to see such a sight. As all this was going on Tom discovered something else that was happening that day at the Fort. On the tour we had the opportunity of witnessing a large group assembled in the quadrangle of the fort consisting of family members and friends of new immigrants who were being sworn in as citizens of the United States.

Since the weather cooperated, we had a beautiful picnic lunch of chicken, pasta and fruit salad and ending with homemade cookies and brownies. And to end the wonderful experience the children who sang for the ceremony came over to our picnic area and sang just for us! Afterwards they walked around and introduced themselves to the Veterans and went away with a memory that will last a lifetime.

The rest of the afternoon and early evening gave everyone a chance to take advantage of Baltimore's Inner Harbor with all its shops, historic boats, Museums and the Aquarium. Everyone met back at our Hospitality Floor by 7:30 for some Q and A with our Veterans. Lots of different questions were asked and our guys were not shy about answering them! It was filmed and can be seen via YouTube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqlxG4P9LI4>

On Saturday there was the option of having an early breakfast and more Inner Harbor sightseeing or getting up a little later and enjoying breakfast, located on the top floor with a fantastic view of the Harbor. By 11:00 we were boarding a cruise boat to take the "National Anthem Tour by Sea - War of 1812 Baltimore Inner Harbor Cruise". Our Captain did a great job. We learned all about the Battle of Baltimore and how Francis Scott Key was detained on a British ship in the Harbor. As we passed Fort McHenry and saw it by boat we could just imagine him watching the massive flag flying as he wrote the Star-Spangled Banner. Late afternoon was a General Membership Meeting, which led into social hour and a wonderful

catered dinner. Our guest speaker for the evening was Michael Shupp, Col. U.S. Marine Corps (Ret) who talked about when he commanded the main effort during the Battle of Fallujah and afterward was in charge of the reconstruction effort in the city and the first free Iraqi elections in 2005. He also went into the air support and air assault during the Fallujah battle. With great visual aids and answering all the questions that were asked, we think he had as much fun getting to know the Veterans as they did listening to him.

The evening would not be complete without the Auction for our Scholarship Fund. We had our own Auctioneer as Tom was in rare form wearing his tuxedo tails. There were many great items up for sale and he

performed his duty with finesse and flair! So much so that some didn't realize they purchased items until the end of the evening! To look around the room and see so much laughter and joy was wonderful in raising \$3,476.00 for the Scholarship Fund along with \$1,090.00 from the William Litzenburg Memorial contributions. Sunday morning brought the Memorial service. What a beautiful way to end an eventful weekend. Larry Dananay led us all in prayer and song with such classics as God Bless America and America the Beautiful and of course U.S. Air Force Anthem: Off We Go! Then John Creek told us something that apparently had never been done before: Shirley and Fran Bates came forward and volunteered to have the reunion in Portland, Oregon next year! The weekend was complete so it was time to say, "Hope to see you next year!"

Our Veterans at Fort McHenry



Front Row - H. Horst, W. Gake, R. Randall

**Back Row - R. Reed, R. Frick, W. Higgins, C. Ritter,
M. Eichelman, E. Vincent, T. Kauffelt, W. Webster**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Holidays are now over, hopefully all of us spent this time with friends and relatives and enjoyed reconnecting with our special folks. I certainly did exactly that and it is now time to talk about another kind of fun and VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE: Our Veterans.....!!!!

I cannot begin to explain how fantastic it is to have our Veteran's children serving the Men who made our lives so fantastic for the last 70 years. I remember fondly the first one of these that my Dad invited me to attend and the evolution of how it has grown and changed as we have succeeded in involving so very many of the kids, grandkids and yes, even the great grandkids in this process of remembering and honoring our VETS. In the beginning, I did not have any idea how these great events came about, but certainly loved them and attended all since my introduction. I do remember when Mom and Dad (Bob and Lynn Creek) volunteered to plan the one in Nashville, Tn. quite a few years ago. I was anxious to contribute as much as possible, even though I no longer lived close to them and worked full time back then. I learned very quickly from Mom and Dad (Indeed, don't we learn most of everything from our Parents) that this was no easy task. I also realized that the "shoe was on the wrong foot" for these events and decided to be as instrumental as possible in taking this big task and responsibility away from the Veterans and moving it to the next generation. The idea was really simple: We should be providing them a GREAT time at these Reunions and have them feel as honored as possible by all of us who benefited so much from their sacrifices on Tinian Island so long ago.

Fast forward to today when we now have yet another wonderful family stepping up and planning our next Reunion in Portland, Oregon...see I did get it right this time...Oregon, NOT Maine...!!!! Fran and Shirley Bates, local residents of Portland, are planning yet another great event for all of us to honor our VETS. They have worked diligently and have chosen some great activities for us, including a great location on the river. It is encouraged that we make reservations very early as Portland is a busy and tourist driven locale. Shirley and Fran have suggested that the "early birds" who register may request a river view room, so another incentive to register early. By the way, it also cuts down on the "sweat it out factor" to know early on that we can meet our obligations to the Hotel. All who have planned a Reunion understand this so let's do our part to keep the "sweat factor" down by registering very early. And, it must be added that sending in your MONEY early is also a big help in this regard.

Also, I must comment on the evolution of the "Silent and NOT so Silent Auction" event. It has grown a lot over the past few years, creating not only a fund raiser but a fun event. I will bring the Canteen found on Tinian back for a "redistribution" to another member. And, of course, who could forget the monstrous B-29 Engine Cylinder donated last year and designated as a "traveling prize" to be auctioned off each year and to be enjoyed as a living room decoration for the most discriminating of Interior Decorators. I know that the Ladies of our group will be bidding high for this privileged item to enjoy for the coming year. For the Men who may wish it for their garage or Man Cave, bring your wallets full. I got outbid last year, but I have been saving my pennies, so be prepared. I also hope that Tom Ritter might bring his exceptional Auctioneering skills as well as his Tuxedo to spur on the bidding and keep us all laughing as we try to fill the coffers of the Scholarship Fund as well as the 6th Bomb

FROM THE EDITOR



Readers will recall I ended this column in the last newsletter with, "Passing the torch as 10 years is long enough!" Obviously hoping that somebody would take over as Editor of the newsletter. We need a "younger generation" volunteer or a pair of them and I will of course continue to be of any help I can.

That said, I'll dig right into this issue. Nancy and Tom did a great job of running the Baltimore Reunion and outlined all our activities on page 1. President Creek's message on page 2 announces Portland OR, September 9-13, 2015 as this year's location for the reunion. Shirley and Fran Bates on page 3 discuss it further. If you wish to request a room with a view they suggest to register early and if you need an ADA room, please ask for that. They've also assured us that Portland in the fall is the place to be for all the activities they're lining up for the veterans, families and friends. Relative to the former there are fewer of us (11 at Baltimore) that are able to attend each year but fortunately we have 2nd generation young people (too numerous to list all) able and willing to keep the 6th Bomb Group Association alive and well. Finally, in a "turn about" for John Creek's recognition in his message, "Our Veterans are Very Special People" we in return salute you for all your continuing efforts on our behalf.

A heartfelt thanks to all our "Ace Photographers" again for supplying the gallery of great pictures in this newsletter. And not to be forgotten, the specific venues and reunion registration information will all follow in the June 2015 newsletter.

★ William B. Webster ★

Group Treasury.

I cannot tell you all how much I look forward to this event every year. I also want to THANK Fran and Shirley profusely for their contribution to honoring our Vets. Thank you and I cannot wait for Portland, OREGON. See you there!

★ John R. Creek ★



Treasurer Larry Dananay indicated that on December 31, 2014 there was \$7,294.29 in the bank. Please note the number following your name/address on page 8 and if it does not indicate 15 or more you're not current on your dues. Thank you for your attention to this.

This newsletter is the official publication of the 6th Bomb Group Association Inc. and no articles or photographs may be used without prior approval from the editor.

IN MEMORIAM

- ✧ **Stephen Spegg Jr.** of Linden, PA passed away August 29, 2013. He was a Sergeant with the 24th Squadron and a Left Gunner on crew 2404.
- ✧ **Dr. Lewis Graham** of Bowling Green, KY passed away June, 2013.
- ✧ **Floyd E. Keeney** of Groves, TX passed away October 6, 2012
- ✧ **Alfred Schrenk** of Richmond, VA passed away January 2, 2014. He was a Staff Sergeant with the 39th Squadron.
- ✧ **Dale R. Brady** of Sioux City, IA passed away in 2007. He was a Sergeant with the 39 Squadron serving as a Right Gunner on crew 3912.
- ✧ **Elmer J. Hovda** of Austin, MN died August 1, 2014. He was a Staff Sergeant with the 39th Squadron.
- ✧ **Ruth Aultice** of Lynchburg, VA wife of Frank Aultice passed away on June 2, 2014
- ✧ **Katie Botos Randall** – wife of Richard Randall, unfortunately, passed away at the Baltimore Reunion on September 27, 2014. She led an active life having taught school for over 40 years, and was the church organist, loved flower gardening, birds, baking cookies and helping others.
- ✧ **William “Bill” Marvin Litzenberg** of Erie, PA passed away in the comfort of his home September 8, 2014. He and his “Bad Penny” crew were assigned to the 40th Squadron, 6th Bomb Group and completed 30 combat missions for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and four Air Medals. Quick with a smile, had a wonderful laugh and a welcoming hug. He will be sorely missed by family and friends alike.
- ✧ **Clarence Pressgrove** of Green Acres, FL passed away on September 27, 2014. He was a Staff Sergeant and the Right Gunner on board the B-29 Super fortress named the “Peacemaker” stationed on Tinian in the Pacific Marianas during the war to defeat Japan. The Peacemaker and her crew were part of the 6th Bomb Group, 40th Squadron before being shot down and made a Prisoner of War. “Press” saved the lives of his fellow crewman and their B-29 and was awarded the Purple Heart, Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross.



- ✧ **Newell W. Penniman Jr.**, South Hamilton, MA — 91, beloved husband of Theresa, died June 16, 2014. An honorably discharged veteran, he served as a 1st Lieutenant in the Air Force, and a proud veteran of World War II. As a Navigator and Bombardier of the 6th Bombardment Group, 24th Squadron, he served his country by flying 35 missions in a B-29, crew #2405. They flew in many historic missions including the famous “March Blitz” incendiary raids over Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, and Kobe from North Field, Tinian Island and to this day the largest and busiest airfield ever operated by the US Air Force. He and his crew logged 20 hours and 5 minutes in the air to complete a mining mission off the coast of North Korea, one of the longest missions flown in World War II. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, four Air Medals, four Battle Stars, two Unit Citations, and the Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon. He finished his last combat mission on August 6, 1945, the same day the first atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima, a historic event. Penny was one of the founding members of the 6th Bomb Group Association and one of the longest serving Board Members. Following the war, he finished his accounting degree at Bentley College, and worked as an accountant at General Electric Co. in Lynn, MA.

For maintaining the “place of record” for deceased 6th Bomb Group Members. Please send information to: Larry Dananay, 224 Indian Hill Road Leechburg, PA 15656 phone: 724.681.7811 e-mail: ldananay@jbfayco.com

September Reunion In Portland Oregon

(Details to follow in the June Newsletter)

Shirley and Fran Bates and the entire city of Portland welcome the 6th Bomb Group to the Rose City for its annual reunion from September 9-13, 2015. You read that right—we are adding another full day to the reunion; a chance to spend more time catching up, enjoying the great city of Portland and each other. It will be a lot of fun.

We have secured the Red Lion on the River as our host hotel. It is located on Hayden Island, with rooms that face the historic Columbia River. It is in north Portland with easy access to the city via the light rail and to nearby shopping and restaurants via the free hotel shuttle. We are planning a number of interesting activities including a visit to the Evergreen Air and Space Museum where the Spruce Goose resides, the Fort Vancouver National Historical Site, which has Fort Vancouver, Officer’s Row and the Pearson Air Museum. Additionally, we are hoping to offer an optional day in wine country—tasting and eating at a couple of our favorite wineries or, as an option, a day on the Portland Spirit or Sternwheeler with lunch on the Willamette or Columbia River. Portland is known for its Farmers Markets, the famous Saturday (and Sunday too) market, wonderful restaurants and food carts. Mount Hood is an hour east, Mt. St. Helens to the north, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

The room rate for a river facing room will be \$137.00 plus tax and includes a hot breakfast. Our hospitality and history rooms will be co-located in a convenient set of rooms at the hotel. There is an outdoor pool and tennis courts for your enjoyment.

An idea this year is to create a photo wall with pictures of the veterans before, during and after WWII. If you are willing to share your photos please send them to Shirley Bates, 934 37th Ave, Forest Grove, OR 97116. We will return your originals after the reunion.

We will have all the details available in the June Newsletter and hope to be able to announce our banquet speaker, and a couple of other surprises that will make your trip to Portland a memorable one.

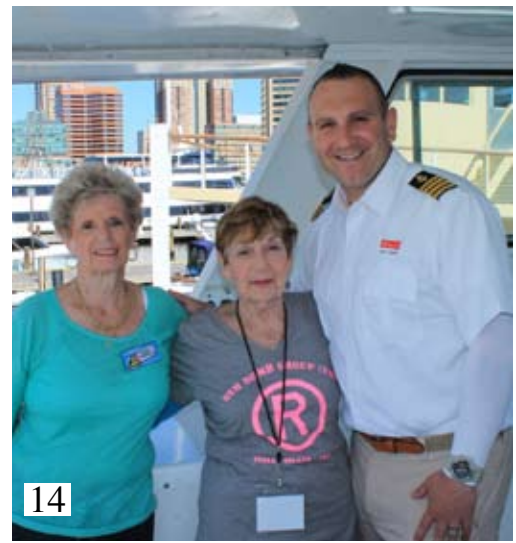




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List of Photograph Titles on Pages 4, 5, & 6...

1. View of Fort McHenry from the Cruise
2. The Quadrangle
3. Our Tour Guide at the Fort
4. Warren encouraging Nick, Steve, Chris and Larry to bid
5. The Kauffelts and Websters
6. Perfect fit for a coffee table. The Mrs. will love it!
7. Banquet Evening
8. John, did you say \$2,000.00?
9. The Auction begins
10. Rob Ritter encouraging "Nick" Nichols and Steve Dananay to bid
11. Nice Fit, Glenda!
12. Banquet Speaker Mike Shupp
13. Do I hear \$1,800.00?
14. Glenda, Elaine and the Captain
15. The Inner Harbor
16. A Lunch Break
17. More Inner Harbor
18. The Music Makers
19. Herb and Alice Meet the Music Makers
20. More Lunch Break
21. Marty Eichelman and Warren Higgins with a pair of Music Makers
22. Larry Dananay at the Sunday Services
23. Richard Randal and Family
24. Ritters and Websters are talking it over.
25. Don Kane, Bob Frick and Phil Crowthers
26. "That's our crew!" Marty Eichelman
27. Mary and Bob Reed
28. Bob and Millie Frick
29. Bill Webster and Ed Vincent have alot to talk about.
30. David Wilson and John Creek talking about their Tinian Island trip last sunner.
31. Nancy Webster Zander and Tom Ritter - Our Reunion Coordinators
32. Bob Reed, Bob Frick, Charles Ritter, Bill Webster, Ed Vincent and Herb Horst
33. T. D. Kauffelt
34. Wallace Gake
35. The Veterans Sounding Off
36. Glenda Richards



TINIAN ISLAND TOUR 1945 1973 1995 2014



When Andy Giles announced his tour in a return to Tinian last July 70 years following the invasion of the Island in 1944, that caught the eye of two of our 6th Bomb Group Association Members. David Wilson, our Co-Historian and the son of S/Sgt. Bernard E. Wilson, who was making his third trip back to the Island and John Creek our President and son of S/Sgt. John R. Creek. The trip was all that they hoped for in being able to travel on the same roads and trails seeing many of the old buildings. Also North Field (the world's largest ever constructed) where in missions their fathers had deployed when bombing the Japanese Empire. Upon their return David couldn't wait to put



David Wilson and John Creek at the 6th Bomb Group Monument

together a very complete "Travel log" using photographs not only those he took on his trips but ones Bill Webster took in 1945 and on his return trip in 1995 and Don Kane took in 1973. For the many who have wondered what has happened to the beautiful Island of Tinian in the 70 years since we were stationed there, thanks to David Wilson who along with Phil Crowthers (our very capable and efficient Co-Historians) there's now a way to see it all and enjoy at the following link:

<http://philcrowther.com/6bgmain.html>

List of Baltimore Reunion 2014 Attendees

Allgor, Bob	Frick, Robert	Kaufmann, Julie	Ritter, Tom
Allgor, Terry	Frick, Milicent	Kegarice, Carolyn	Ritter, Carol
Angel, Elaine	Gake, Wallace	Kissel, JoAnne	Ritter, Paul
Bates, Francis	Gake, Mary	Kissel, Meg	Ritter, Sherri
Bates, Shirley	Handy, John	Mataus, Joyce	Roth, Alexandra
Baumgardner, Leslie	Handy, Nancy	Miller, Bill	Scott, Norman
Baumgardner, Bill	Hays, Steve	Miller, Rachel Harris	Vincent, Ed
Capone, Lucy	Higgins, Warren	Myers, Rene	Vincent, Lois
Conroy, Philip	Higgins, Maxine	Nichols, Steven	Vincent, Kent
Conroy, Cathy	Holmes, Jeanne	Peterson Gore, Mary	Vincent, Nancy
Creek, John	Horst, Herb	Peterson, (son)	Webster, William
Creek, Marilyn	Horst, Alice	Randall, Richard	Webster Zander, Nancy
Crowther, Phil	Horst, John	Randall, Katie	Wilkinson, Karen
Dananay, Larry	Horst, Gilbert	Randall, Natalie	Wilkinson, Alan
Dananay, Chris	Horst, Justin	Reed, Robert	Williamson, Susan
Dananay, Steve	Horst, Palmer	Reed, Marjorie	Williamson, McKinley
Daniels, Clara	Kane, Donald A.	Richards, Glenda	Williamson, Taylor
Eichelman, Georgia	Kauffelt, T. D.	Ritter, Charles	Williamson, Megan
Eichelman, Jeanne	Kauffelt, Virginia	Ritter, Dr. Rob	Wilson, David
Eichelman, Marty	Kauffelt, Mark	Ritter, Gayle	



The numbers next to your name indicate your current membership status.

Board of Directors

John R. Creek, Jr., President
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 Edgar L. "Ed" Vincent, Secretary
 Larry Dananay, Treasurer
 Robert W. Frick
 Steve Hays
 Herbert C. Horst
 Jack Koser
 Charles Ritter
 William B. Webster

☆☆☆ **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT** ☆☆☆

Dues payment applies to the current year and years going forward as all past dues are forgiven. Membership dues are paid through the last year of the numbers following your name on the newsletter label above.

Member _____
 Spouse/Other _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Dues are \$20 per year.

Paid for Year(s): __ 2015 __ 2016 __ 2017

Regular Member _____ Associate Member _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to: 6th Bomb Group
 (check or money order please, no cash)

Mail to: Larry Dananay, 224 Indian Hill Road
 Leechburg, PA 15656



- WE STAND CORRECTED -

In the June, 2014 newsletter article, An Insightful Visit With Tom Neff, he mentioned one of the ground crew guys said something looked funny on the Enola Gay when he went to look at it. He found the whole tail portion had been slightly bent or pushed to one side by the blast. Recently we heard from the 509th Composite Group's Newsletter Editor that the plane flew 3 days later on the Nagasaki mission and according to the flight Inspector Reports showed NO BENT TAIL was mentioned.