



**6th Bomb Group
Association**

**TINIAN ISLAND
1944 - 45**

**JUNE
2017**



6th Bomb Group 2017 Reunion on Galveston Island

GALVESTON ISLAND, TEXAS

“THE OLEANDER CITY”

NOVEMBER 8 – 12, 2017

**Howdy y'all, welcome to Texas!
We have a really big show planned —**

Founded in 1786, Galveston Island is located about 50 miles southeast of Houston and is known as the Oleander City due to the large number of beautiful oleander plants seen throughout the island. Galveston's architecture and historical areas along with modern hotels, amusement parks, beaches, and the seawall, make it a wonderful place to visit! Ahhh, let's not forget the seafood. With the Gulf of Mexico at our front door, we have some of the best longtime, family-owned seafood restaurants anywhere along the Texas gulf coast. Need a great place to eat? Let me know!

We will be taking a special guided tour to visit such places as The Willis -Moody Mansion, Bishops Palace, Ashton Villa, The Seawall, and Tall Ship ELISSA. The Pier 21 Theater will be showing a film about Jean Laffite, the pirate who was based in Galveston in early 1817 and also happens to be the 6th Bomb Group's insignia, which appeared on all 6th BG aircraft.

One of our reunion highlights will be going to the new \$30 million Lone Star Flight Museum at Ellington Field. There, we will present our history program to local students, tour the facility, and see some of the finest refurbished WWII aircraft anywhere! And since this is Veterans' Day Weekend, we just may have some very special surprises thrown in!

Our location for this reunion will be at the beautiful Moody Gardens Hotel and Spa. Built in 1986, this facility is something you just have to see to believe! Our reunion coincides with the opening night on Saturday of the “Festival of Lights”. Over one million Christmas lights are on display all around the property and “Ice Land” includes two million pounds of ice brought in for ice sculptors to transform into some stunning Christmas art. Please take a minute and go to: www.moodygardenshotel.com. There's also a 9:28 minute video on YouTube, search Galveston. com. Please note that all of the attractions on the property have an entry fee. You can purchase these individually, by the day, or multiday pass. These attractions are not part of our reunion as a group. We have time built in during your stay for you decide what you would like to visit and when. Please see the hotel website for more information. The concierge in the lobby can answer any questions you may have.

Hope to see everyone in Galveston!

☆ *Dick Masceri, Reunion Chairman*



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your Board of Directors has been very busy trying to do all the right things for our members so that they may attend our Reunions easily and affordably. After much discussion, both in Florida at the last Reunion General Meeting and via email amongst the Board, the decision has been made that our Reunion agendas will continue as in the past as a “pick and choose” events schedule. The difficulties we have had recently due to declining attendance with fixed cost distribution is resolved. Your Board has agreed that if we might lose money on a Reunion that we will fund it from the treasury. We will also alter the use of our Auction dollars, both silent and live, to offset losses if they occur. We are in hopes that this might lead to more enthusiasm to bid items higher to help keep treasury declines to a minimum. This is just one of many issues we must address in the coming years as we navigate our future. I do believe that we have a diligent and competent Board to recognize, debate and finalize issues as they may arise. So let's all look forward to many more 6th Bomb Group Reunions to continue the efforts to remember and honor our WWII Veterans.

Dick Masceri, who only recently joined our group at the Florida Reunion, has made a wonderful contribution of time, effort and thoughtfulness to us in organizing and hosting our next Reunion in Galveston, Tx. In my memory, no one has taken on this responsibility so quickly after joining us. He has performed well above and beyond the call of duty. Dick has planned a fantastic agenda for us all to enjoy. I will not elaborate further as Dick's article on the Reunion is in this newsletter. I will however, continue to remind all that this task is not easy and we should all think about how to encourage participation with others in this planning process. Dick just jumped in as a wonderful volunteer and with no hesitation, has formulated a new and quite different Reunion agenda for us all to enjoy. He has thought about and accommodated the needs of our Veterans to not walk too much and still have a great time. Also, the choice of Moody Gardens provides a tremendous on-sight entertainment facility with fascinating things to see and do. This facility has so many things to attract families with children that it also meets our needs to find ways to achieve family involvement. Thank you Dick for making this a multitask Reunion for all. It almost seems that each Reunion gets better and better due to creativity of our members, and Dick Masceri has certainly set a new standard for all of our enjoyment.

I will close this message with the final reminder that we should all be thinking about our future and how we wish to conduct our organization's purpose. I wrote at length about my vision in the January '17 Newsletter so will not repeat it here. However, I would like to continue our group discussion of this at our General Meeting on Saturday during the Reunion. Our Board would like feedback concerning this and future Reunions and the incorporation of young local student education about WWII Veterans and what these MEN have given us as generational success for our Nation. I personally, remain concerned that many Americans today, young and middle age, do not realize that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE. We must remind all that these MEN paid the price for our FREEDOM. A new generation may well be called upon again to maintain our life as we have known it for the 70 years since the last call to duty that these MEN answered.

☆ John R. Creek, Jr. ☆

FROM THE EDITORS



This is the second edition of the newsletter from us, and we have heard from several members that they liked the first one—so we plan to give you more of the same. We really need to thank David Wilson for all the incredible material that he has found concerning the 6BG. David is a human Google machine, and his contributions will be reflected in stories in this and subsequent newsletters. Phil Crowther has updated his great website with lots of detailed information about the 6th, its aircraft and people. The Pirate's Log and DVD's are still popular, and Larry Dananay has sold several since we mentioned them in the January edition.

The Galveston Reunion is fast approaching. Dick Masceri has done a lot of great work pulling the reunion together, and we expect it will be an enjoyable experience for all who attend. Register early and book your rooms now.

Sadly, the “In Memoriam” section has grown. If you know about the passing of someone in the Group, please pass it along so we can mention them in the newsletter.

Lastly, we want to encourage people to contribute to the Go Fund Me account we have established to help offset some of the reunion expenses that the group incurs. The fund is found at www.gofundme.com/6th-bomb-group-2017-reunion-fund. Contribute early, contribute often.

Fran and Shirley Bates

*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

Jerry S. Benesh, 99, of Willowbrook, IL. Died January 24, 2017. Mr. Benesh was a S/Sgt. In the 39th Squadron and right gunner on Crew# 3905, "Look Homeward Angel". Mr. Benesh leaves behind daughter Paula Thomson and Linda (James) Schuda and several grandchildren. Jerry and many of his family attended last year's reunion in Tampa, FL.

Philip W. Hill, Sr. of Hopewell Junction, N.Y. died June 20, 2016 at Mid Hudson Regional Hospital. No further details are known.

Thaddeus Kauffelt, died in December, 2015 in Charleston WV.. He was in the 40th and a CFC on crew 4006. He flew 24 combat missions. Mr. Kauffelt, is survived by his wife, Virginia Point Kauffelt, and sons, James and Mark. In later life Mr. Kauffelt was an attorney in Charleston. His obituary is found at <http://www.barlowbonsail.com/obituaries/thaddeus-david-kauffelt-jr/>

William E. Laughlin died March 13, 2017, in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Mr. Laughlin was a S/Sgt. In the 39th Squadron and CFC (Central Fire Controller) on Crew #3918, "Grider Gal". Mr. Laughlin leaves behind his wife Shirley and daughter Jill of Klamath Falls.

Howard H. Post, died March 15, 2014, at the Wisconsin Veterans' Home in Chippewa Falls. Mr. Post was a 2nd Lt. bombardier in the 6th Bomb Group. Survivors include: daughters Connie (Kent) Sprague of Chippewa Falls, WI and Becky (Dave Maddocks) Post of La Crosse, WI. and several grandchildren. Mr. Post was a businessman and realtor following his time in service.

Alfred Slater, Jr., died February 23, 2012, in Modesto, CA. Mr. Slater was a bombardier in the 39th Squadron. He is survived by his daughters, Julie and Jeanne, several granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter. Mr. Slater was a teacher, counselor, and an administrator in the public schools. You may read a copy of his obituary in the March 4, 2012, "Modesto Bee". www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/alfred-slater-obituary?pid=1000000156232391

Harold Weida, of Strongville, Ohio, died July 27, 2015. After a thorough search, we believe that Mr. Weida had a ground job on Tinian. He is survived by his daughter Jamie Fisher (married to Gary Hall) and three grandsons. After the war Mr. Weida joined the FBI in 1947 and served with them for 30 years. He went on to found a security consulting agency following his retirement from the FBI. You may read his obituary in "The Repository", July 29, 2015. obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?pid=175387253

Dorothy Ann Mortimer Gleacher, died after a brief illness on July 7, 2015, in Merritt Island, FL. She was the wife of Donald Joseph Gleacher who was a crew member of #3909 on "Reamatroid" in the 39th Squadron. Married for 52 years, she leaves behind her spouse and five children and their spouses.



WHO REMEMBERS DITCHING TRAINING AT GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA?

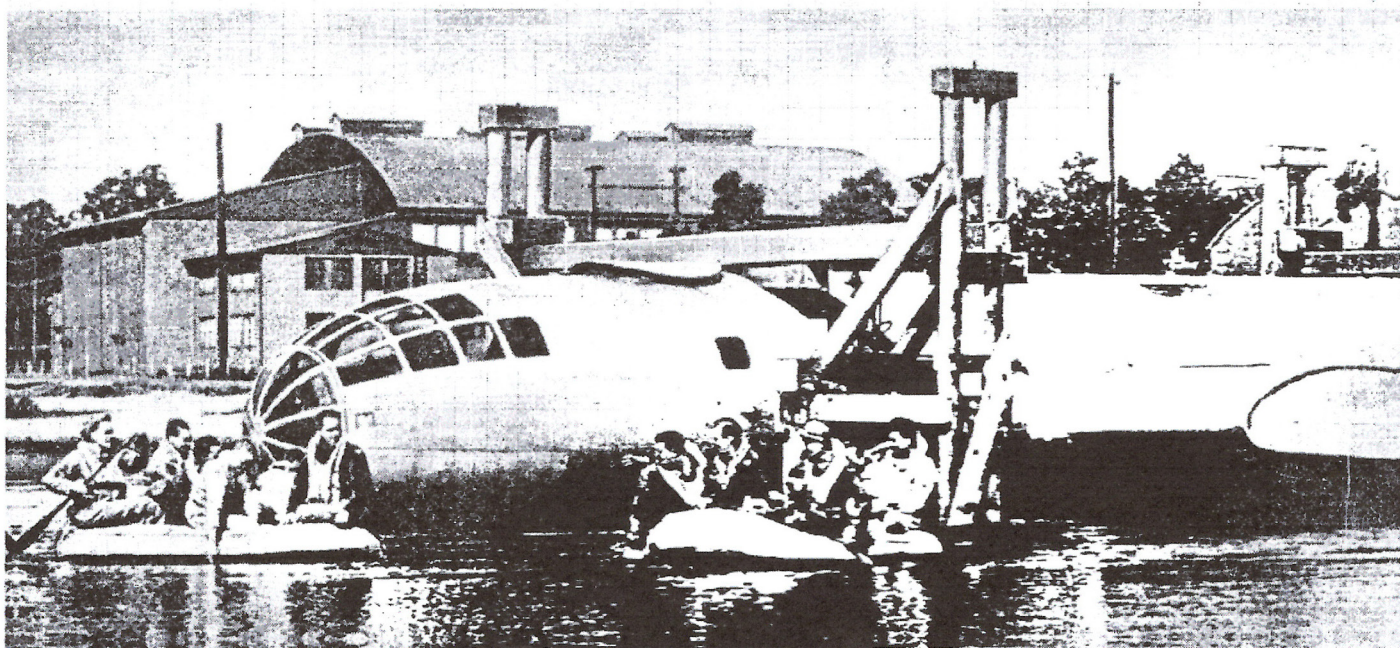
[The Article and photos following are from 6th BOMB GROUP Microfilm at Maxwell AFB, AF Historical Research Agency.]

Realizing the vital importance of constant drill in proper ditching procedure, many airbases have constructed ditching stages and mockups for practice sessions. In a number of instances, scrap materials and ingenuity are being combined to good advantage in developing practice facilities.

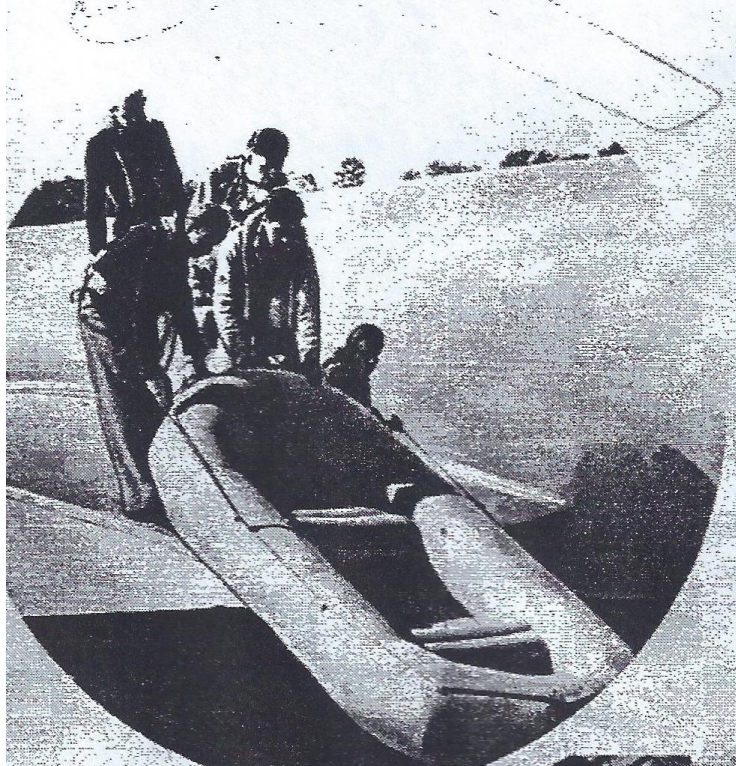
Among these is our own 6th Bomb Group Mock up. On a small lake five miles east of the field the discarded fuselage of a B-17 floats on a raft of fifty oil drums. Ropes hold the entire structure along a floating pier. This lake appeared after a contractor had scooped gravel out of the ground there. Now with the permission of the contractor's company, we sail a Flying Fortress there and hold school on board. Built by 1st Lt. James E. Simpson, this mock-up is located near the roadside.

Every day, aircrews carrying their Mae Wests, rafts and cars, pile into trucks and go out to the lake. Rubber lifeboats are overturned; rockets arch in the sky; sails are broken out; signal mirrors are tested. All of this is a part of our new stepped up program of Dinghy Drill.

Photo taken from: Popular Mechanics, June 1945 Training in Orlando FL



“DITCHING” THE B-29



“Bailing Out” In Municipal Pool



Above photo from
5 August '44 issue of
“Strictly GI”

The newspaper of Grand Island Army Air Force Base
The newspaper was given to the 6 BG Archives
by the George Gresko family.



AAF Tactical Center photos
Braced for impact, crewmen hold hands behind
head and co-pilot braces feet on rudder ped-
als. Below, tail gunner scrambles out window



MR. BLAISDELL AND MR. MORELAND LEAVE THEIR MARK(S) ON TINIAN

A note from David Wilson on January 31, 2017:

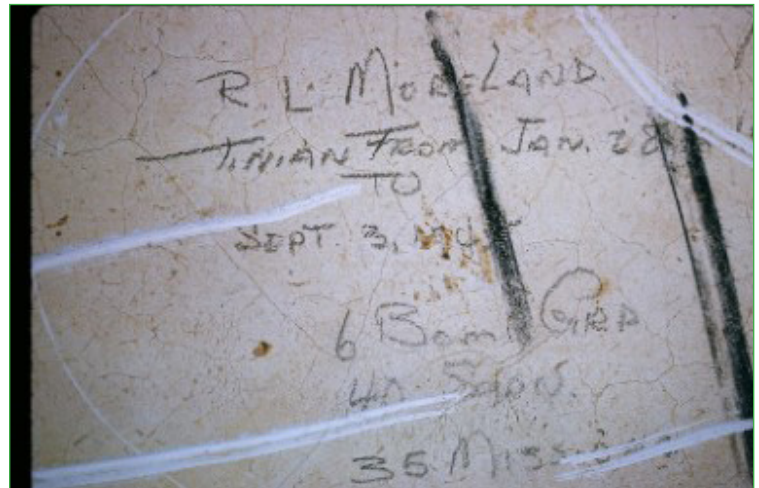
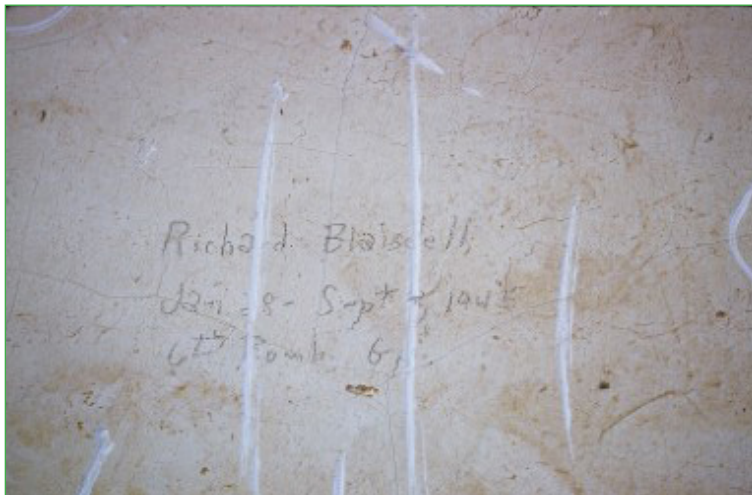
Just saw in the January Newsletter that Richard Blaisdell passed away on 10 November, 2015. I would like to share an interesting story about Mr. Blaisdell —

He arrived on Tinian on 28 January 1945. He was the Central Fire Controller on Lt. Triplett's crew 4005 of the 40th Bomb Squadron. Their crew had completed 35 missions, the war was over, and they were scheduled to leave Tinian for the states. On 3 September 45, he and the right blister gunner of his crew, R.L. Moreland were "exploring" Tinian. They went to the bombed out Japanese Air Administration Building on North Field. They decided to leave their names written in the stairwell.

Fast forward to 1973 - Don Kane was performing an environmental study of Tinian. He and his team were visiting the sights on Tinian and taking photos.

Don shared these photos with the 6th BG archives. As I was going thru the photos, I saw the photos of the names of Moreland and Blaisdell written in the stairwell. (The photos are below). I looked to see if either was still living. Mr. Moreland had passed away around 1990. Mr. Blaisdell was still living. I called his phone number and had a good conversation with him. I told him about the photos of his name on the stairwell wall. He told me the story. I called Don Kane and told him, and he called Mr. Blaisdell and sent him an Air Force coin.

In June 2014, John Creek and I were taking a trip to Tinian for the 70th Anniversary of the Battles of Tinian and Saipan. One of our missions on the trip was to check the stairwell and see if the names were still visible on the wall. We arrived at the Air Administration Building and searched the stairwell. Sadly, unknown people had decorated the stairwell with vulgarities and the Historic Preservation Office of Tinian had painted over the vulgarities and in the process painted over the names. We searched the stairwell to see if we could get a glimpse of their names with no success.



Photos of names of Richard Blaisdell and R. L. Moreland taken in the stairwell by Don Kane in 1973



The Air Administration Building,
from recent trip to Tinian.

6th Bomb Group Association Financial Report

Period of October 01, 2016 to March 31, 2017

Checking Account

Balance Checking Account 10/01/2016.... **\$7,056.04**

Income:

Membership Dues.....	\$1,965.00
DVD & Pirate Log Sales.....	\$300.00
Proceeds From Reunions (Auction & Raffle Proceeds).....	\$3,112.10
Scholarship Contributions (Jerry Benesh Memorial Donations).....	\$485.00
Memorial Contributions (9th Bomb Group - Herb Hobler).....	<u>\$250.00</u>
Total Income.....	\$6,112.10

Expenses:

Misc Expenses.....	\$0.00
Newsletter Expenses.....	\$1,641.19
Mailing Costs.....	\$125.43
POW Reunion Reimbursements.....	\$0.00
Memorial Donations (Miller, George, Savala, Blaisdell, Post, Weida, Hill, Benesh).....	\$416.70
DVD Reproductions, Etc.....	\$0.00
Scholarship Fund Donations.....	\$0.00
2017 Reunion Expense Advance (Dick Masceri).....	\$1,000.00
Total Expenses.....	<u>\$3,183.32</u>

Balance Checking Account 03/31/2017..... **\$9,984.82**

Truman Heartland Community Foundation Scholarship Fund

Period of January 01, 2017 to March 31, 2017

Balance Scholarship Account 01/01/2017.... **\$31,197.86**

Additions:

Contributions/Gifts to Fund.....	\$0.00
Interest Income.....	\$38.15
Dividend Income.....	\$30.16
Capital Gains/Loss.....	<u>\$1,162.94</u>
Total Fund Additions....	\$1,231.25

Distributions/Expenses:

Grants.....	\$0.00
Administrative Fees.....	<u>\$80.17</u>
Total Fund Distributions/Expenses.....	\$80.17

Ending Scholarship Fund Balance 03/31/2017..... **\$32,348.94**

6th BOMB GROUP SCHOLARSHIP

The 6th Bomb Group sponsors a scholarship for relatives of 6th veterans. The Truman Heartland Community Foundation manages the fund. To apply for the scholarship visit their website at www.thcf.org. On their homepage look for the "Grants and Scholarships Seekers" tab; pull down to "Scholarships"; then "High School Scholarships", then choose "6th Bomb Group Memorial Scholarship". High School Students or Undergraduates may apply. This is a renewal scholarship. You can also contact the Truman Heartland Community Foundation, 300 N. Osage Street, Independence, MO 64050, (816) 836-8189.

DUES REMINDER

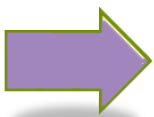
There is in envelope enclosed in this newsletter to remind members and associates of the need to pay their dues to the organization. A couple of notes:

- ALL PAST UNPAID DUES ARE FORGIVEN
- YOUR DUES ARE PAID THROUGH THE YEAR THAT FOLLOWS YOUR NAME ON THIS NEWSLETTER ADDRESS LABEL (*for example: Smith 16 means dues are paid through 2016*)
- DUES ARE \$20 PER YEAR AND THIS IS REFLECTED ON THE ENVELOPE. YOU CAN PAY FOR MULTIPLE YEARS.

Make check out to Sixth Bomb Group and mail to Treasurer, Larry Dananay, 224 Indian Hill Road, Leechburg, PA 15656.



Here's an interesting use of volcanic ash - a Japanese tank was created from the ash on Iwo Jima. (submitted by George E. Cressman Jr.)



Auction Notice: If you have any items you want to include in the Scholarship Fund auction, please bring them with you to the reunion.

FIFI AND DOC FLYING AGAIN THIS SUMMER

FIFI will fly in Reading, Pennsylvania on June 2-4 and in Hagerstown, Maryland on June 7-11, 2017

DOC will make the following tour stops:

- Wings Over Whiteman: Whiteman Air Force Base, Knob Noster, MO, June 10-11
- EAA AirVenture: Oshkosh, Wisconsin, July 24-30

"Doc Flies Again" is an interesting video
<http://mortefontainevillage.pagesperso-orange.fr/marc-brecy/b29.html>

Want to experience FIFI as it flies to Oskosh, check out this YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/XakK81edKFA>

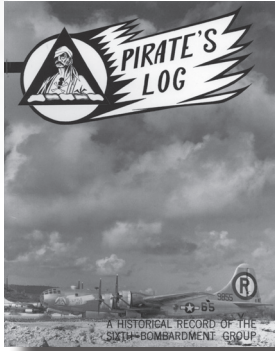
There are several FIFI videos on YouTube.

CRUISING WITH LARRY AND CHRIS DANANAY

Larry and Chris are going to cruise the Caribbean on the Royal Caribbean's Princess of the Seas immediately after the reunion and would like to invite other members of the 6th to join them. The ship leaves from Galveston on Sunday, November 12th and returns to Galveston on Sunday, November 19th. Prices are reasonable. If you are interested, contact Sandy Balbo at Making Memories Travel, 269-919-9028.

6TH BOMB GROUP MERCHANDISE

THE PIRATE'S LOG, 6TH BOMB GROUP DVD, AND OUR DISTINCTIVE T-SHIRTS AND HATS NOW AVAILABLE



THE PIRATE'S LOG: first published in 1946 and often reprinted. It is a 74 page book chronicling the 6th Bomb Group from reactivation in 1944, training in B-29's at Grand Island, over-water flights to the Caribbean and departure for Tinian in the Pacific. The book follows bombing and mining missions over the Japanese Empire and the conclusion of history's greatest conflict in September 1945. With second, third and fourth generation young people continuing to show more interest in WW 2, this is a must for family members. **Each copy of The Pirate's Log costs \$30.00 which includes mailing.**

DVD: contains 450 photographs and runs 58 minutes. It tells the story of the 6th Bomb Group and all of the support personnel from reactivation stateside in April 1944. The DVD follows the bombing and mining missions culminating with the dropping of the Atomic bombs and the signing of the unconditional surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945. **Each costs \$30.00 which includes shipping.**

To order The Pirate's Log and/or DVD, contact Larry Dananay at: beagle22b07@yahoo.com or Larry Dananay, 224 Indian Hill Road, Leechburg, PA 15656.

For T-shirts, hats and squadron pins, contact Steve Dananay at www.6thbombgroupgear.com

PRESERVE OUR HISTORY

As you come across diaries, photographs, articles, magazines, or other items of interest from the time your Sixth Bomb Group Veteran spent with the organization, please consider donating them to The Sixth if no one in your family wishes to hold on to them.

David has worked hard to preserve and share this memorabilia with other members who attend the reunions and visit the history room. All donated items will be cared for properly and at some point in time, archived at a central location containing all that relates to the Sixth Bomb Group. We all must strive to continue the legacy of The Sixth.

For more information or to arrange for a donation contact David Wilson at damaabrca@embarqmail.com

☆ BOARD MEMBERS ☆

John Creek, President
Virgil Morgan, Vice President
Ed Vincent, Secretary
Larry Dananay, Treasurer

Shirley Bates
Robert Frick
Mary Gresko
Steve Hays
Warren Higgins

Herb Horst
Jack Koser
Glenda Richards
Kent Vincent
David Wilson

6th BOMB GROUP REUNION HOTEL INFORMATION

Moody Gardens Hotel
7 Hope Boulevard
Galveston, Texas 77554



Reservations are by Individual--please call:

888-388-8484 or 409-741-8484

Room Rate: \$155.00 (single, double, triple, quad)

State and local taxes: 15% on rooms

Name of Group: 6th Bomb Group

Our contact: Cindi Smith (800-582-4673 ext 4115)

Arrival Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017. **Check in time:** 4:00 pm

Departure Date: Sunday, November 12, 2017. **Check out time:** 12:00 noon

Cut off Date: October 1, 2017. All reservations received after this date will be accepted on a "Space available" basis only

Important: ON ALL INDIVIDUAL RESERVATIONS - reservations must be guaranteed by a major credit card or first night full deposit. Reservation cancelled less than 48 hours prior to arrival will be assessed one night's room and tax.

The hotel website is: www.moodygardenshotel.com

The hotel is approximately 50 miles from Houston Hobby Airport and 75 miles from Houston Bush International. American, Delta, Jet Blue and Southwest service Houston Hobby.

To get from the airport to the hotel, you have several options: rent a car and drive, take a taxi, try Uber or Lyft. Various websites list several shuttle services including Island Breeze Shuttle (www.islandbreezeshuttle.com) 403-770-0100; Cool Tours (www.cooltoursgalveston.com) 409-539-5374; and Galveston Limo (www.galvestonlimo.com) 403-744-5466. Other services may be available also.



☆☆☆ Registration Form ☆☆☆

Each day breakfast is on your own.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

4:00 pm Registration desk opens

5:00 pm Reception in the Garden Room (Main Lobby)

Hors D'oeuvres, beer/wine

Includes: 3 drink tickets

\$40.00 per person X _____ Persons = _____

**** Dinner on your own**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

9:30 am Meet in the hotel lobby for bus tour of Galveston

including the Historic East End /Strand and Pier 21 Theater

2:30 pm Return to the hotel

****Lunch on your own**

\$50.00 per person X _____ Persons = _____

4:30 pm Q&A with Vets in the History/Hospitality Room

**** Dinner on your own**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017

8:30 am Meet in the hotel lobby for tour to the Lone Star Flight Museum

10:30 am 6th BG historical presentation to local students

12:20 pm Lunch for the group (included)

2:00 pm Return to the hotel

\$60.00 per person X _____ Persons = _____

4:00 – 9:00 pm History Room open

**** Dinner on your own**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017

9:00 am Board of Directors' Meeting in the History/Hospitality Room

10:00 am General Membership Meeting in the History/Hospitality Room

1:00 pm Social/Silent and Live Auction

1:30 pm Banquet Buffet in the Garden Terrace Room

NOTE: The Banquet is being held early due to the opening of the Festival of Lights that will take place from 6:00 – 9:00 pm that evening

\$80.00 per person X _____ Persons = _____

Enjoy the Festival of Lights, Ice Land and all the attractions in the evening.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017

9:00 am Chapel Service and closing activity in the History/Hospitality Room

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: 6TH BOMB GROUP 2017 REUNION



MAIL TO:

DICK MASCERI

11032 MESQUITE DRIVE

LA PORTE, TEXAS 77571

**ALL REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 1, 2017.
THIS IS DUE TO THE DEPOSITS AND FEES REQUIRED BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES.**

**WE CANNOT GUARANTEE TRANSPORTATION
IF YOUR REGISTRATION IS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE.**

**TINIAN ISLAND
1945**

Larry Dananay
224 Indian Hill Road
Leechburg, PA 15656
Address Service Requested



*This hand-made snuggler quilt made by Donna S. Pitts is
one of several auction items you will find at our
Scholarship Auction in Galveston!*

FOLLOW THE 6TH BOMB GROUP

- ☆ FaceBook - Sixth Bomb Group (Very Heavy)
- ☆ On the Web - www.PhilCrowther.com and www.6thbombgroupgear.com
- ☆ GoFundMe - Reunion funding account: www.GoFundMe.com/6th-bomb-group-reunion-2017

