



**6th Bomb Group
Association**

**TINIAN ISLAND
1944 - 45**

January
2020



OFF WE GO!

REUNION SEPTEMBER 11 - 15, 2019

OFF WE GO...Reunion in Mukilteo, Washington

The 2019 6th Bomb Group Association Reunion kicked off September 11 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Mukilteo, Washington - right in the heart of the aviation district. From our Hospitality Suite, you could open windows and catch sight of Boeing's massive planes arriving or departing and see the assemblage of 737maxs in long-term parking.

"...Here's a toast to the host of those who love the vastness of the sky..."

The first night, we gathered in our comfy Hospitality Suite where everyone could relax and enjoy soups made by Kate Danley, sandwiches, desserts and fruit as our late arrivals drifted in. Lots of wine, beer, and laughter kept the party going until late.

Thursday morning we were called into the meeting room by the sounds of Reveille, then our VFW color guard posted flags, we recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang God Bless America. We even took a stab at singing the Air Force fight song before President John Creek officially opened the reunion with an enthusiastic welcome. He spoke briefly about the upcoming adventures and we traipsed across the street to the Future of Flight Museum where we watched an informative video and boarded buses for our tour of the Boeing Factory (the largest building in the world).

"...Souls of men dreaming of skies to conquer Gave us wings, ever to soar..."

The afternoon program was opened with a memorial remembrance for Herb Horst and Virgil Morgan. The memorial was led by Leonard (Ed) and Kent Vincent. Pictures were projected and we all had a chance to share memories. Every vet is precious and the loss of any member leaves a hole in the heart of the Sixth.

Dave Wilson shared his latest slides and the extensive research he has done on the SeaBees and their seemingly miraculous constructions on Tinian.

"Minds of men fashioned a crate of thunder; sent it high into the blue; Hands of men blasted the world asunder; How they lived, God only knew..."

Friday morning we again enjoyed the breakfast buffet before boarding our chartered bus for a 45 minute trip to the Boeing Museum in Tukwila. Once we arrived, four assigned docents welcomed us and guided us through the museum. We were thrilled to spot a B-17 and then our beloved, perfectly restored B-29 in the Flight Pavilion. One special bonus was that the crew chief responsible for much of this B29's restoration was awaiting us and allowed us into the cockpit



Reunion, continued on page 2

and to explore the bomb bay and cargo areas. Ed's navigator's daughter, Carol Sullivan, soon found her way to her dad's old seat in the cockpit.

We left the pavilion and trooped into the Skyline Room for a delicious buffet luncheon. We were joined there by the reunion group of the 57th Bomb Wing Association who flew B-25s and fought in the European African-Middle Eastern campaigns.

Our luncheon speaker was Richard Heasty, the B-29'crew chief who spoke at length about the museum's restoration project.

"... We drink to those who gave their all of old

"...A toast to the host of men we boast, The U.S. Army Air Corps..."

Saturday found us enjoying yet another glorious breakfast buffet before hopping in vehicles to visit Paul Allen's Flying Heritage museum (a mere 15 minutes from our hotel. This is the world's largest collection of vintage aircraft and tanks. Many of the museum's planes are rebuilt to working condition and can be seen soaring overhead during special events.

"Souls of men dreaming of skies to conquer gave us wings, ever to soar. With scouts before and bombers galore, Hey! Nothing'll stop the U.S. Army Air Corps..."

Our Saturday banquet was a highlight thanks to our brilliant speaker, Mr. David Loffing, who is the 747 Chief Project Engineer for Commercial Airplanes at Boeing.

His emphasized the importance of the B-29 in the war effort and the bravery of the men of the U.S. Army Air Corps who won us the war. He put forth a timeline which showed how the B-29 advanced aeronautical; engineering and changed the outcome of the war. He put both men and machines into the heroic perspective they deserve.

The evening concluded with the traditional live and silent auctions energetically lead by Renae Myers and Jeanne Holmes who helped us part with our dollars to acquire some unique treasures and enrich the 6th coffers.

The flags were retired, and folks returned to the suite to close out a great reunion.

Sunday began with our breakfast, followed by an inspirational liturgy from Phil Conroy. Together we sang "Amazing Grace" and made another attempt at "Off we go..." before saying goodbye until next time.

" ... Keep your wings level and true ... In Echelon we carry on, Hey! Nothing'll stop the U.S. Army Air Corps ..."

"The success of this year's reunion was possible thanks to the expertise of our daughters, Kathy and Christy and especially our son in law Tyler. I can't thank them enough for so generously sharing their time and talents (and inside-connections to Boeing) to make this reunion so wonderful. It wonderful to share this project with my husband of 50 years."

Mariae Danley

John Creek thanks the Danley family (L-R: Kathy Danley, Christy and Tyler Wilhelm, John Creek, Dave and Mariane Danley) for their help organizing the September 2019 Reunion



☆ BOARD MEMBERS ☆

John Creek, President
* Vice President
Ed Vincent, Secretary
Larry Dananay, Treasurer

Shirley Bates
Robert Frick
Mary Gresko
Warren Higgins

Jack Koser
Glenda Richards
Kent Vincent
David Wilson



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dave and Mariane Danley and family are due an immense THANK YOU from all of us for carrying on the Reunion tradition of the 6th Bomb Group.

Yet again, a new standard seems to have been set for including the heritage of the B-29 and all of the wonderful treatment afforded us at the Boeing manufacturing facilities. The last time I visited Boeing was at the 1992 6th BG Reunion, which was my first at the invitation of my Father who had never talked about his WWII experience. This year's Reunion brought back very fond memories and a reminder of the Boeing Co. and its contributions throughout history to our safety and security. Other highlights: The Paul Allen Museum and the preservation of US Military equipment and the Hospitality Room and those wonderful chocolate chip cookies.

The manner in which young people communicate and learn today, has coalesced around internet functions and particularly web searches and, therefore, websites. As we think to the future, "What would we like to leave for our footprint as an Honor to the WWII Veterans that we have so long admired and celebrated at these many Reunions?" Your Board has decided that a website for the 6th BG Association is going to be our footprint. While Phil Crowther started his website almost 20 years ago, the volume of material accumulated by Phil and David Wilson as Historians has grown beyond the current capabilities of Phil's site. Phil has volunteered to help create/manage a new website built to current standards and expanded capability. Our Technical Gurus for this project will be Phil Crowther and Kent Vincent with material assistance from David Wilson. Recently, while in Santa Fe, NM, I had the random occasion to meet a web designer who showed great interest in participating in our endeavor to Honor our Vets. We will continue to interview her as a "consultant" to Phil and Kent, with no decision yet made. We ask for your philosophical support and as momentum grows, maybe your financial support down the road as well.

There are just a few other events to identify for our members. We have a Professional Military Reunion Planner who will work with Don Kane to coordinate our next Reunion in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Rene'e and I had the privilege to attend the 100th Birthday party for one of our many esteemed Veterans, Jack Koser. For those of you who knew or can remember Jack, if there is one thing that follows Jack, it is FRIVOLITY. I believe his life has been one big party even in the face of many adversities. In fact, it is a model for all of us. To view more about the celebration go to fox13news.com/news/wwii-pilot-celebrates-100th-birthday-in-bradenton

Thank you all for your support and again, a very special and large THANK YOU to the Danley's.

☆☆ John R. Creek, Jr. ☆☆

FROM THE EDITORS



We hope that you enjoy this issue of the newsletter and will take the time to go to the links to learn more about our reunion and the 6th. If you have stories or photographs you would like to share in our newsletter, please send them to us: swbates1@gmail.com

As John mentioned we had a great reunion in September thanks to the Danley Family. I think we came away reinvigorated, focused, and committed to making sure the Sixth Bomb Group legacy carries on. One part of that project is to establish a website and the other is archiving our memorabilia in Fredericksburg, Texas, home of The National Museum of the Pacific War. In remembering our veterans, we hope that many of you will avail yourselves of our Pirates' Logs, DVD's, and Sixth Bomb Group gear. Additionally, we have included lengthy obituaries on an insert for Herb Horst and Virgil Morgan, two members who were instrumental in starting and supporting our organization. At the time of their deaths, they both served on the Board of Directors. We are grateful for their service both in the military and in our group. Finally, the scholarship fund is alive and well but needs some applicants. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity originated by Warren Higgins.

Fran and Shirley Bates

Shirley's email: swbates1@gmail.com

934 37th Avenue, Forest Grove, OR 97116



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.





REUNION PHOTOS



B-29 at the Museum of Flight



David Wilson and Steve Dananay



Ed Vincent and family



Ed Vincent and Wallace Gake
and a B-17



Wallace Gake and family



Hospitality Room Group



Group at Boeing Museum



NEXT REUNION: FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS, FALL 2020



September 11 - 15, 2019



Breakfast



Ed, Carole Sullivan and
Jan Gormley Linner



Jeanne and Dave



Larry and Chris



Museum of Flight lunch



Rodenhouse and friends



The Vincent Table



Jack Koser's 100th Birthday



NEXT REUNION: FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS, FALL 2020





WHAT THE SIXTH MEANS TO ME

What The Sixth Means To Me...by Carole Spellman Sullivan

Growing up in the 50s and 60s, my father never spoke much about the war or the people he spent some of the most memorable years of our country's history with. Rather, he showed us the night sky, the constellations and how he used them to navigate. Unfortunately, in 1978, he passed away, taking all those memories of that time with him. I considered him my hero and knew that the things he did during that time were not only important, but also necessary. A lingering feeling, though, still remained; the wonder of what his real experiences were.

Then, in August 2011, I received a message from my nephew with a link to Phil Crowther's 6th Bomb Group website. I was amazed to see the photo of my dad, William G. Spellman, and Ed Vincent's crew of the "Flak Alley Sally", Crew #4012 of the 40th Squadron, with each member's name written in sharpie! I picked the hardest name, Lou Chicquette, found his number on-line, and spoke to him that very day! He was delighted to hear from me but said, "Why are you talking to me when Herb Horst, your dad's best friend, is still alive." I was elated by this news!



Carole
Sullivan

So, two months later, I attended the reunion in San Diego (only a train ride away from my home in Ojai, CA) and spent time with Herb, Ed Vincent, their families and all of the other remarkable veterans. I also got to meet all the fine people that were helping as volunteers, organizing the events. I was treated as a long-lost daughter and heard so many stories of the crew and Dad's strengths as a navigator (not to mention his skill at craps!) and the best was how Herb and Dad lifted a slot machine from Mathers AFB on the way to the Pacific in Herb's words: The machine was just sitting in a warehouse and we said "Don't know where we are going but for damn sure there won't be a slot machine there!"

No words can truly convey how happy my heart is to have been regaled with war stories from my Dad's friends, their appreciation for his fine navigating and the chance for my family to share in these stories that would have otherwise been lost. I feel as though I'm part of a much bigger family now. What does the Sixth mean to me? Everything.



TOM AND SHIRLEY BOWER AND THE SIXTH



We get to meet a lot of interesting people at 6th Bomb Group Reunions, almost all of them have a direct connection to the 6th. We have vets, children, grandchildren, friends of a member, but occasionally we meet someone who has no direct connection except interest and who just seems to belong. Tom and Shirley Bower attended the reunion in Boise on the recommendation of another bomb group association and had a great time, so much so, that they came to Everett this year. Tom brought a 1/6th scale model of the Little Boy atomic bomb that he has built—the casing and parts, no explosives, that generated a lot of interest in both the model, and his machining ability. They met a lot of welcoming people, and those connections brought them back this year.

Tom and Shirley own and operate TS Teknadyne, a small family-owned machine shop, in Cottonwood, Idaho, specializing in custom machining of small quantity items, anywhere from 1 to 1,000+ pieces. Their focus is on military stock parts' production. There is a bit of legacy here in that Tom's grandfather was a machinist on the Manhattan Project. Shirley and Tom are both welders, machinists, CNC operators and all-around can-do people. They came to the reunion to renew friendships, and the conversation about the military experiences so many members of the group have had. They enjoyed the programs, the tours, the displays and the locations in the Northwest. It was our people that really hooked them on attending and, hopefully, will draw them back to future reunions.

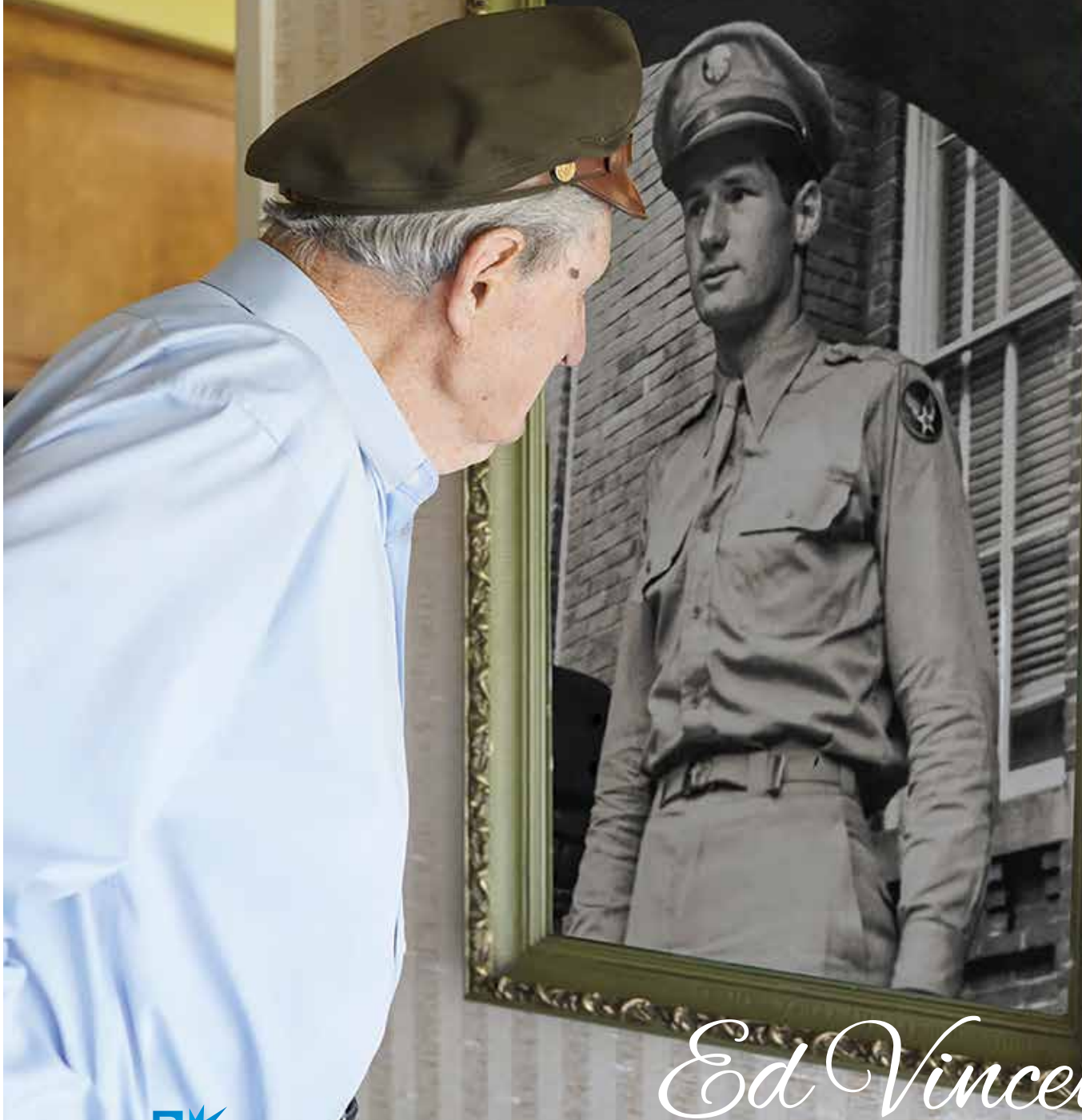
SARATOGA

JULY 2019

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Saratoga

The Heart of Saratoga

Spotlight



Best Version Media

Ed Vincent **Oh Beautiful, For Spacious Skies**

Cover photo by Teresa Nora Trobbe / Fotos By T

An older Ed Vincent admiring a younger Ed Vincent. Reprinted with permission by Saratoga Spotlight

Go to www.BestVersionMedia.com for the whole story.

A Letter to the Editor from 1945

At the 2019 Everett Reunion Wallace Gake provided a most interesting article that he came across recently. We are going to reprint the Letter to the Editor that he provided:

"I found this poem in my parent's house after they had passed. They had worked at Boeing in Wichita, Kansas during the war and my dad (Frank) retired from Boeing....thanks to all you do to keep history alive." By Betty Neal Patton, Rogers, Arkansas

The original poem was written in pencil, and we are unable to print the original but have reproduced a typed copy here:

Department 20

By Vestal Frye

January 25, 1945



*Yep, it's only ten foot wide,
That balcony extending along the west side.
Sort of a ledge jutting out in the air,
Can't even reach it without climbing a stair
No. Faint very wide, not much space
But for six scare people it's a working space
A place where each one may do his share
To help the loved ones over there.*



*And down below wedged in a gap
Forty some more are whipping the Jap.
Working steadily day after day.
Speeding our bomber on its way.
For strength and power there's none so fine,
None to compare with the B-29.
It's swell to know a place of such grace,
Finds its creator in this very place*



*Do we appreciate as much as we should,
The privilege of building a plane so good?
For we at Boeings have only to toil,
Our boys, they die on foreign soil.
The hours is long either day or night,
It's bound to be longer in the midst of a fight.
Until there's planes and planes a plenty
We'll do our share in department twenty.*



This poem was presented by President John Creek to David Loffing, our dinner speaker and a lead engineer at Boeing Seattle with the following remarks:

I am forwarding to you a copy of the poem we used at our Reunion from Vestal Frye, Boeing employee, that so poignantly stated her work with your great organization to achieve the needed results of WWII. I hope you will archive it with the Boeing history folks for all who may be interested to see this wonderful statement of commitment and participation in what we have titled "The War Effort". She was critical to its success with a few other million folks who were equally dedicated and committed.

We also received the following comment:

Very nice poem. Great to see something touching and important to those involved at that time.
Thank you for sharing this with us, I will ensure that all our volunteers get a chance to read it.
Sincerely, Franklin Berry, Doc's Historian

IN MEMORIAM



Lewis Brinson, 96, was a Staff Sergeant on a ground crew 40th Squadron. He died March 9, 2019 at his home in Fitzgerald, Georgia. Mr. Brinson was a life-long educator whose career began in 1948 and ended as the Director of Ben Hill-Brinson Technical School in 1984. He was inducted into the Georgia Hall of Fame for Vocational Educators.



Herbert Calvin Horst, 94, passed away July 21, 2019. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Alice Horst; his children David Horst (Janet) of Mountain Lakes, NJ, John Horst (Janet) of Woodbine, MD, Susan Warner (Jack) of Norfolk, VA; eight grandsons, three great grandchildren, and a nephew.

Herb served as a bombardier/navigator in the 40th Squadron on Flak Alley Sally flying over 30 missions. Herb and Alice attended many 6 BG Reunions and brought family members along, too. He remained friends with his aircraft commander Ed Vincent for the remainder of his life. Herb brought funny stories, a congenial personality, and a genuine interest in the lives of others with him to those gatherings. He served on the Board of Directors for the Sixth Bomb Group Association for many years and was on the board at the time of his death. **See insert in this issue for more details.**



Virgil Morgan, Sr., 97, passed away July 27, 2019 after a long and full life. He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Irene, and son Gerald. Virgil flew 19 combat missions as a flight engineer primarily on the B-29, Battling Betty, in the 40th Squadron. He was heavily involved in the organization and beginning of the 6th Bomb Group Association, served as its President, and was Vice President at the time of his death. Virgil and Irene attended many reunions around the country. In our June 2019 newsletter we featured Virgil detailing the steps he undertook to acquire and install The Propeller Monument at Grand Island, NE. **See insert in this issue for more details.**

John Misterly died August 18, 2016 and was laid to rest in Hillcrest Cemetery in Grants Pass, Oregon. Colonel Misterly began his military career in the Infantry and earned Navigator Wings December 1943. He was part of the 58th Squadron relocated to Tinian in April 1945. After the war John remained in the service retiring in 1978. There are a couple of videos at www.youtube.com by Colonel John Misterly about his military experiences.

SIXTH BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

KEY POINTS:

- AVAILABLE ONLY TO 6 BG RELATIVES—PROOF REQUIRED
- MUST BE ACCEPTED AT AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, VOCATIONAL OR TRADE SCHOOL
- MAINTAINED A 2.5 HIGH SCHOOL GPA
- DEVELOPED SKILLS AND ABILITIES THROUGH EXTRACURRICULAR, COMMUNITY OR WORK ACTIVITIES
- FINANCIAL NEED MAY BE CONSIDERED
- APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1 AND RENEWALS ARE POSSIBLE.

Application Information: Truman Heartland Community Foundation, 4200 Little Blue Parkway, Suite 340, Independence, MO 64057, (816) 836-8189.

Apply NOW--We Need Applicants – Apply NOW!!

6TH BOMB GROUP MERCHANDISE

STEVE DANANAY ANNOUNCES NEW DESIGNS - NEW COLORS



“Preserving history and honoring those who served on Tinian Island – 1945.” Circle-R, Jean Lafitte and B-29 Tees available in unisex and women’s sizes. Send email to sixthbombgroupgear@gmail.com for current colors and sizes available. Please note new email address for 6th Bomb Group Gear. Prices range from \$20 - \$25 + shipping. Come on - you know you want one!

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-29s 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, 501 Stonecliff Lane, Butler, PA 16001.

For **T-shirts, hats and squadron pins:** Steve has a great selection of new colors and styles available now. Contact Steve Dananay at: sixthbombgroupgear@gmail.com



DUES REMINDER

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

- ALL PAST 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 \$20.00 PER YEAR AND THIS IS REFLECTED ON THE ENVELOPE. YOU CAN PAY FOR MULTIPLE YEARS.**

Make your check out to Sixth Bomb Group and mail to Treasurer, Larry Dananay, 501 STONECLIFF LANE, BUTLER, PA 16001



6th Bomb Group Association Annual Financial Report

Period of January 01, 2019 to October 31, 2019

Checking Account

Balance Checking Account 01/01/2019.... \$11,175.35

Income:

Membership Dues.....	\$1,880.00
DVD & Pirate Log Sales.....	\$84.00
Proceeds From Reunions (Registrations, Auction & Raffle Proceeds).....	\$1,972.50
Scholarship Contributions (Lori Forsman).....	\$210.00
Memorial Contributions.....	\$0.00
Total Income.....	\$4,146.50

Expenses:

Misc Expenses	\$300.00
Newsletter Expenses.....	\$1,795.00
Mailing Costs.....	\$532.35
Costs for Archiving Records	\$0.00
Memorial Donations (Brinson, Horst, Morgan).....	\$250.00
Pirates Log & DVD Reproductions, Etc (Refund for Over Payment of Pirates Log).....	\$24.00
Scholarship Fund Donations (Lori Forsman).....	\$210.00
Reunion Expenses (Everett).....	\$3,837.03
Total Expenses.....	\$6,948.38

Balance Checking Account 10/31/2019..... \$8,373.47

Truman Heartland Community Foundation Scholarship Fund

Period of January 01, 2019 to October 31, 2019

Balance Scholarship Account 01/01/2019.... \$31,048.97

Additions:

Contributions/Gifts to Fund.....	\$210.00
Interest Income.....	\$333.10
Dividend Income.....	\$341.63
Capital Gains/Loss.....	\$3,122.98
Total Fund Additions....	\$4,007.71

Distributions/Expenses:

Grants.....	\$500.00
Administrative Fees.....	\$380.38
Total Fund Distributions/Expenses.....	\$880.38

Ending Scholarship Fund Balance 10/31/2019..... \$34,176.30

**TINIAN ISLAND
1945**

Larry Dananay
501 Stonecliff Lane
Butler, PA 16001
Address Service Requested

FOLLOW THE 6TH BOMB GROUP

- ☆ FaceBook - Sixth Bomb Group (Very Heavy)
- ☆ On the Web - www.PhilCrowther.com (Click on the 6th BG link)
- ☆ 6th Gear - Sixthbombgroupgear@gmail.com

Reunion in Fall of 2020 in Fredericksburg, Texas

