

# 820<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron Newsletter



**820<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron Assoc. 2004 Reunion  
Courtyard Marriott, Springfield, VA  
May 28 - 31, 2004**

Our thanks to Clare Molloy for writing the following vivid recollection of our reunion:

Thirty one members and friends of the 820<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron gathered in Washington, DC to attend the festivities connected with the National World War II Memorial Dedication. Also attending were members from the 47<sup>th</sup> and 396<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadrons.

On Friday, May 28, following a delicious dinner at the Orleans House, the group motor-coached to the MCI Center, a vast venue, to be honored by Armed Forces personnel in a Salute to World War II Veterans. The dramatizations, music, and

precision marching brought great feelings of pride and nostalgia to the thousands attending. It was truly a memorable evening.

Saturday, May 2, brought us to the Mall with a boxed lunch for the pre-ceremony entertainment. A panoramic view of the Mall for as far as the eye could see, gave a dotted appearance of seated veterans and their families. One "wit" mentioned that it was the largest gathering of old guys ever gathered in one spot. Many notable speakers addressed the audience—Tom Brokaw, Bob Dole, and the two George Bushes. Also, Tom Hanks was introduced by Bill Clinton. We had a very enjoyable dinner at Tony & Joe's on the waterfront in Georgetown.

On Sunday, May 30, we coached to Dulles A/P to be greeted by Larry Kelly the owners of a B-25J. This was an open cockpit tour of the "Panchito" which originally was part of the 396<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron. This was followed by a special guided tour of the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. We enjoyed dinner and memories with other members of the World War II Generation at Phillips Flagship Restaurant, overlooking the waters of the *Potomac River*. Along with dinner, we were entertained by a brass band performing 1940's music. And "Off we go" brought us to our feet "with one hell of a roar". That evening following dinner, Hal (Moose) Moody's daughter, Kathleen and her husband Martin Walsh, guided us to the World War II Memorial which was such an awe inspiring and unforgettable experience.

Letters:

Larry Skelton son of **Earl Skelton** (deceased) and his son Michael joined our reunion. Larry wrote that it meant a great deal to both of us to meet with people who new my Dad and share his experience in the Pacific.

**Millie & Dick Turner** wrote:

Dick & I were talking about our trip to Washington tonight and thinking about you. We are so glad that you decided to organize that trip because we would never have gone on our own. Take a bow for a job well done.

I'm sure everyone had similar feelings and thoughts. It was a worth while endeavor. Norm

**Clare & Morgan Molloy** wrote:

Mt. Rushmore would be a great trip. We haven't been there in at least 20 years and would look forward to going. It's wonderful to keep the group going rather than curling up and withering away. A small group is better than no group. Also we wouldn't have attempted to schlepp down to DC on our own. Thanks for the opportunity.

### **Taps for our departed comrades**

**Michael Siciliano** passed away shortly before our 2004 reunion. Mike was my partner in conceiving and organizing the reunion. I'm deeply sadden by this loss.

**Henry Siravo** passed away shortly before our 2004 reunion. As an honoree of the WWII Memorial, he was looking forward to attending the dedication ceremonies. We shall miss him.

**James Robert Conway** – (R-G), of Etowah, SC, passed away June 2004. His daughter Debra Stromski (631-878-5896) wrote that he recounted with pride his service with the 820<sup>th</sup> BS. Debra would like to hear from anyone that new him.

**Fredrick A. Turner** (Amorer 911) was a member of the 820<sup>th</sup> BS on Okinowa from April 18 to Dec. 13, 1945. His son Russ Turner recently learned of this and is very interested in hearing from anyone that may have know him as Fred or Buddy Turner. Anyone with information can contact:

Russ Turner

13825 Paprika Court

Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Phone: 951-247-0030

Email: ratuner1952@adelphia.net

## **Spring 2005 Reunion**

Mt. Rushmore near Rapid City, SD - Host - Jack & Garnet Audiss

There are fewer of us each year. But if we can get a dozen or two of our comrades and family together at a popular place like Mt. Rushmore, we will enjoy a pleasant and memorable reunion.

There are many visitors each year that pay homage to Mt. Rushmore, the 'Shrine to Democracy.' The natural beauty of the Black Hills, coupled with an assortment of amusements in nearby cities and towns, makes Mt. Rushmore a vacation destination that should be at the top of every American's list. The [Mt. Rushmore Tour](#) is a fascinating, narrated tour that encompasses the [Borglum Historical Center](#), Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, and Crazy Horse Memorial. Take the [1880s Train and Mt. Rushmore Lighting Ceremony Tour](#) for a memorable experience and great photo opportunities. And there's plenty to do beyond the monument, for the young and the young at heart oldies too. Enjoy a [Western Music Show and Chuckwagon Dinner at the Circle B Ranch](#). Pan for gold at the [Big Thunder Gold Mine](#). Or discover billions of years of Black Hills history, from dinosaurs to Native American tribes to frontier settlers, at the [Journey Museum](#).

Jack & Garnet are busy checking out and making arrangements for hotel accommodations, entertainment and exciting tours. Please complete the survey form on the last page of the Newsletter to let us know your level of interest.

**41<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group Reunions** – contact Urban A. Gutting 1-210-647-1650  
Portland, Oregon Sept. 19 to Sept. 23, 2004  
Plans for Fall 2005 is Hot Springs, AK

### **Business meeting Monday - May 31, 2004**

The following officers were elected.

President - Norman Geril

Secretary - Norman Geril

Treasurer - Emery Tuttle

Emery Tuttle has reported that Bill Childs has sent him the treasury funds..

Annual dues remain at \$10.00 and should be mailed to:

Emery Tuttle

147 Esquire Road,

Mabank, TX 75147

**Email address** – It has been suggested that we use email as much as possible to reduce our correspondence cost as well as increase the speed of our communications. So please email your email address to Norman Geril at [ngeril@earthlink.net](mailto:ngeril@earthlink.net)

The following is a list of the people that signed up for DC Reunion including the last minute cancellations.

Felix & Delia Drefus  
Harold & Jeanette Moody  
Jesse & Wayma Rowe - canceled  
Thomas & Ruth McGuire - Ruth canceled  
Everett & Geraldine Drummond - canceled  
Richard & Mildred Turner  
Jack & Garnet Audiss  
Norman & Lenore Geril  
Morgan & Clare Molloy  
Emery & Joanne Tuttle  
Jerry & Sue Drummond- canceled  
E.J. Tracey - 47 BS  
Rose Marie Little - friend of E.J. Tracey  
Donald Snyder, Virginia, & Dean Brodt  
William, Dorothy, & Bertram Miller - 396th BS  
Kathleen & Martin Walsh  
Larry Skelton & son Michael (family of Earl Skelton)  
Herman Badder & Grandchildren

Survey Form  
Spring 2005 Reunion  
Mt. Rushmore, South Dekota

Names of People:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your level of interest. Your response will determine if we go forward

- Will attend
- Interested
- Thinking about it
- Not interested

Comments: Please provide any comments you would like to make regarding this or future Reunions

Please send Survey Form to:

Norman Geril

130 Colonial Drive

Southbury, CT 06488-1205

Phone: 203-262-1860

Email: [ngeril@earthlink.net](mailto:ngeril@earthlink.net)