

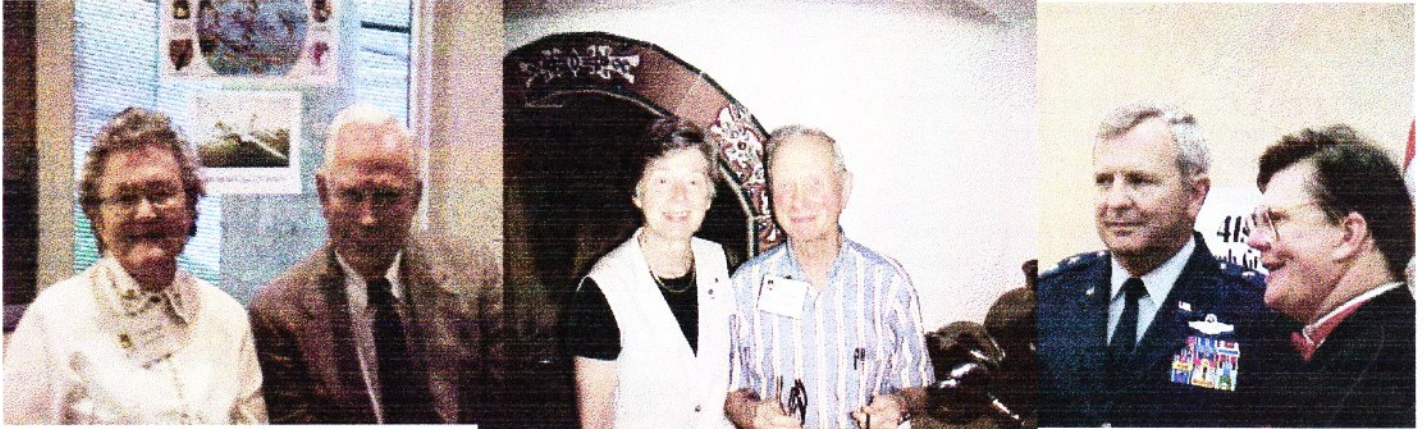


The Crow Flight



Eleventh newsletter of the 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group (M), 7th AF, WWII. issued December 26, 1999

Reunion Great Success.... according to all the raves directed our way at the reunion and in thank you notes later... "...best ever.... fantastic, friendly reunion.... beautiful rooms, fun tours... memory filled four days... Loved the idea of a sort of all-in-one hospitality room... " and on and on.



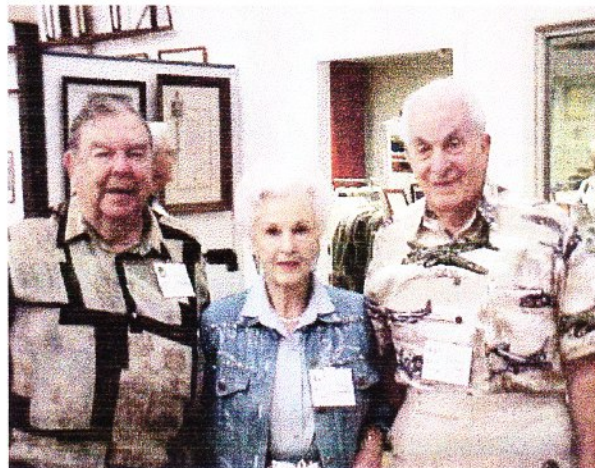
George Tolbert visiting with Dorothy Haskell in the Hospitality Room, 47th

Beverly and John Helmer, 48th

General Whaley, Commander of the 4th AF, main speaker of the evening and Wayland Pickard, who entertained us with his piano.... He is sort of a Victor Borge and Mark Russell all rolled up into one.



L to R, Arnold and Doris Sayer, Bill and Ellie Telega... beautiful centerpieces of fruit, flowers, beads, blinking lights, etc. designed and donated by Kemary Crowder. Arnold is the coordinator of the 2001 reunion in Portsmouth, NH... probably the last week-end in September....



Lefty Pfingst, Frankie and Murray Bywater

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!
Have a great New Millennium, 2000!



...an e-mail from Gutts dated October 13, 1999...

The following has been attributed to State representative Mitchell Kaye from GA.. This guy should run for President:

We the sensible people of the United States, in an attempt to help everyone get along, restore some semblance of justice, avoid any more riots, keep our nation safe, promote positive behavior, and secure the blessings of debt free liberty to ourselves and our great-great-grandchildren, hereby try one more time to ordain and establish some common sense guidelines for the terminally whiny, guilt-ridden, delusional, and other liberal bedwetters.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that a whole lot of people are confused by the Bill of Rights and are so dim that they require a Bill of No Rights.

ARTICLE I: You do not have the right to a new car, big screen TV, or any other form of wealth. More power to you if you can legally acquire them, but no one is guaranteeing anything.

ARTICLE II: YOU DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO NEVER BE OFFENDED. This country is based on freedom, and that means freedom for everyone – not just you! You may leave the room, turn the channel, express a different opinion, etc., but the world is full of idiots, and probably always will be.

ARTICLE III: You do not have the right to be free from harm. If you stick a screwdriver in your eye, learn to be more careful; do not expect the tool manufacturer to make you and all your relatives independently wealthy.

ARTICLE IV: You do not have the right to free food and housing. Americans are the most charitable people to be found, and will gladly help anyone in need, but we are quickly growing weary of subsidizing generation after generation of professional couch potatoes who achieve nothing more than the creation of another generation of professional couch potatoes.

ARTICLE V: You do not have the right to free health care. That would be nice, but from the looks of public housing, you’re just not interested in public health care.

ARTICLE VI: You do not have the right to physically harm other people. If you kidnap, rape, intentionally maim or kill someone, don’t be surprised if the rest of us want to see you fry in the electric chair.

ARTICLE VII: You do not have the right to the possessions of others. If you rob, cheat or coerce away the goods or services of other citizens, don’t be surprised if the rest of us get together and lock you away in a place where you still won’t have the right to a big screen color TV or a life of leisure.


ARTICLE VIII: You don’t have the right to demand that our children risk their lives in foreign wars to soothe your aching conscience. We hate oppressive governments and won’t lift a finger to stop you from going to fight if you’d like. However, we do not enjoy parenting the entire world and do not want to spend so much of our time battling each and every little tyrant with military uniform and a funny hat.

ARTICLE IX: You don’t have the right to a job. All of us sure want all of you to have one and will gladly help you along in hard times, but we expect you to take advantage of the opportunities of education and vocational training laid before you to make yourself useful.

ARTICLE X: You do not have the right to happiness. Being an American means that you have the right to pursue happiness – which by the way, is a lot easier if you are unencumbered by an overabundance of idiotic laws created by those of you who were confused by the Bill of Rights.

MONEY REPORT FROM GUTTS – Our bank balance as of Nov 30, 1999 was \$2,510.22. Good Guys since last report include Vincent Barger, Don Haskell, Donna Daulton, Mike Haskell, Charles Reddig, Wm. Telega, Francis Lisak, Norman Simcoe, Harold Kasten, Arnold Sayer, Dorothy Grobe, Ben Louis Grobe, Murray Bywater, Allan Cobb, George Tolbert, and Glenn Penner. Don’t forget your year 2000 dues of \$15.00 are now due.

 THE CROW FLIGHT is a publication of the 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group, 7th Air Force, World War II. The more or less unelected folks for the 47th are: Head guy, **George Tolbert**, RR#3, Box 445, BRISTOW, OK 74010 (918) 367-5988, e-mail geospace@aol.com -- Money guy **Urban A. “Gutts” Gutting**, 7047 Autumn Chase Dr., SAN ANTONIO, TX 78238-2118 (210) 647-1651, e-mail urban@stic.net -- Info guy **Maurice “Smitty” Smith**, 2575 South Willow, FRESNO, CA 93725, (209) 264-7361– Roster guy, **Donald Haskell**, 2831 Springfield Dr., ROCKLIN, CA 95765-5060, (209) 732-1553, e-mail dhaskell@softcom.net -- WEB site <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/> -- 41st WEB site <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/BombGroup41/> Nerd guy and editor, **Kem Sitterley**, 20449 Blue Mountain Dr., WALNUT, CA 91789-1001, (909) 595-6821, or (909) 595-4451 (fax possible at this number but you gotta call first so I can push a button), e-mail kusitterley@cs.com, 48th correspondents are **John Helmer**, 2122 S. W. Vista Av., PORTLAND, OR 97201, (503) 222-4614, and **Jess (Ray) Ramaker**, 17217 N. E. 7th Pl, BELLEVUE, WA 98008-4134 (425) 747-2306 e-mail ramajess@msn.com.





L to R, Kemary Crowder, Kallie Sitterley, Ben Louis Grobe, and Dorothy Grobe, 47th



One side of display at March Air Force Base Museum



LaVerne Ingstad, 396th, Helen and Paul Hopson, 48th



One of the center court fountains at the Getty Museum

47TH BUSINESS MEETING – A motion was made, seconded and carried that we increase the dues to \$15.00 per year. This was done for two reasons – 1) the expenses of the newsletter were exceeding our income, and 2) we wanted to use more color in the newsletter and color ink is very expensive. Typically ink and toner costs run three times as much as postage.

Another motion was made, seconded, and carried that the printed rosters will not automatically be sent out to the members; attendees at the reunion will get one; and any others that want one may get one for \$5.00.

It was also discussed and agreed that if the 396th

had their 2000 reunion in Las Vegas as planned, we would join them.

Arnold Sayer gave a presentation on having the 2001 Reunion in Portsmouth, NH. This was approved, subject to what might happen in the Group Meeting which followed ours.

In the Group Meeting presided over by Keith Ingstad of the 396th, Arnold Sayer again made his presentation for Portsmouth. A motion was then made, seconded and carried unanimously that all three squadrons go to Vegas in 2000 and to Portsmouth in 2001. Keith will be the coordinator for Vegas, and Arnold will be the coordinator for Portsmouth.



Our reunion committee did such a grand job I thought that it would be fun for you to learn just how it worked and who did what?

WALT WINNER and JOYCE HADDOCK – Walt spent so many hours on the phone with me presenting different ideas...handling the money... getting Wayland Pickard to perform for less than a third of his normal fee....changing his own plans around to drive his van on one of the tours... Joyce also changed her plans ... and helped around the hotel getting ready for the banquet...always asking if there were something more she could do. Walt also spent a lot of time coordinating the B-25 rides.

MURRAY and FRANKIE BYWATER – Always had ideas... had the contacts to arrange for the honor guard... the tour of the March Air Force Base Museum... lunch at the Officer’s Club... General Whaley... our organist, etc....wrote many letters of planning, confirmation, and thank you... who do you think had the words to the ARMY AIR CORPS SONG. Who had Bob Hope’s address...etc.

KEITH and LAVERNE INGSTAD – Keith chaired the tour committee...changed personal plans to expedite one tour... LaVerne also changed he personal plans and hung around the hotel Sunday helping in getting ready for the banquet.

DICK MONZINGO – Chaired the golf committee... did all the planning for the golfers outing. Everyone just raved about what a wonderful job Dick did and how he wouldn’t let them pay for anything!

HELEN and PAUL HOPSON – Paul chaired the Audio-Visual Committee and was active in the Hospitality Room playing different tapes for whoever wanted them.

DOROTHY and DON HASKELL – Don chaired the internet committee and drove a ten-hour round trip to come to the meetings.

CURTIS OAKS – Curtis worked so unselfishly and tirelessly throughout the reunion as a bartender and as a photographer.

ESTHER AND FELIX GALYEAN – They just pitched in any way that they could. They chauffeured Tony and Evelyn Romano back and forth and also spent quite a bit of time playing purchasing agent.

SKIP THRUNE – Always had ideas and gave a nice talk at the banquet on behalf of the 820th.

BILL SCAVO – donated several putters for the prize drawing and handled the drawing at the banquet. Bill designs and builds these putters, and they really are something special.

DOROTHY GROBE – Dorothy, traditionally for the 47th, works all day at the registration desk. She did this again this time plus

she was always asking if there were anything else she could do.

JEAN AND BILL CHILDS – for providing the leadership over the years that all of the squadrons have used... and to Bill for a beautiful invocation.

BILL ZINGERY – Keeps all of us on our toes with his frequent notes, e-mail, etc.... and spoke eloquently at the banquet for the 396th.

BEVERLY and JOHN HELMER – John handled the money for the 48th, and he gave a nice speech at the banquet.

GEORGE TOLBERT – For providing the overall leadership to keep the 47th going and for giving a wonderful talk at the banquet on behalf of the 47th.

URBAN A. “GUTTS” GUTTING – For handling the money for the 47th and spending a substantial amount of time designing the registration spreadsheet forms for all the squadrons. Guttis is really getting to be a pro on his computer.

MARRIOTT-- QUENTIN ROBERTS AND CHRISTIN MORGAN – Quentin provided good counsel early on before he was transferred and promoted... and Christin worked tirelessly and efficiently in making our overall reunion experience a nice one.

CUSTOM LEISURE SERVICES – CAROLYN SCHOENWETTER – Carolyn was of great help right from the start with the planning, and on the two big days of the tours she was there from early to late to see that things went smoothly... plus she acted as tour guide both days on the Getty Museum run.

KEMARY CROWDER – For spending so much time doing whatever was asked of her... purchasing agent, gofer... but mostly for designing and donating all of the materials for the banquet centerpieces.

KALLIE SITTERLEY – For much time and effort...chauffeur and tour guide on the Universal Studio trip.

POLLY SITTERLEY – what can I say? She’s been there for me for 55 years!...doing whatever has to be done.

EDITOR’S NOTE – Please note new phone numbers and e-mail address for me in the masthead.

PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS – All of the pictures in this newsletter, save one, was forwarded to me on CD-ROM disk by Don Haskell, who took them with his new digital camera. It was really neat... I put the disk in my computer and then could bring them into WordPerfect 8 “perfectly.” The picture of the five men with the B-25 on which they went for a ride was forwarded to me by Walt Winner, 396th. A few other folks have promised me pics, but I have not yet received them. Perhaps we can use them in a future issue. Note that this is the shortest newsletter yet... so I could use a heavier paper to make the photos come out better and still get it in under one ounce to save on the postage.

Crow Flight, Page 2... Ontario Reunion... More Pictures....



We had two plane loads of brave souls to go on the B-25 rides.... the one above includes from L to R, John Baglietto (396th), Henry Hebert (396th), Dwight Hebert, Bill Childs (820th), and Chauncy Kershaw (48th)



L to R ... Rene Thrune, Jean Childs, 820th



L to R, Dick Monzingo, Felix Galyean, Sid Birdsley, Esther Galyean (background), and Lefty Pfingst all of the 48th



Bill Childs and Nervie Crossin, 820th

ATTENDEES AT THE REUNION -

From the 47th were Ginny and Ned Burris, Dorothy and Ben Louis Grobe, Earl Grunewald, Urban Gutting and Carolyn Colvin, Dorothy and Don Haskell, Jim Hedstrom, Harold and Lillian Kasten, Francis Lisak, Jannette and Mike Phillips, Peggy and John Sacco, Doris and Arnold Sayer, Polly, Kallie, Karissa, and Kem Sitterley, Kemary Crowder, Ellie and Wm. Telega, George Tolbert, Nancy and Bob Worsnop, and Mary and Thom Zachok.

From the 48th were Marion and Joe Calbreath, Vera and Joe Carrion, Nettie and Dave Crane, Russ Clark and Margaret Brown, Jan, Jeanne and Johnny Davis, Doreen and Hiram Fitzpatrick, Esther and Felix Galyean, Edith and Alvin Gazda, Barbara and L. S. Hart, Beverly and John Helmer, Helen and Paul Hopson, Virginia and Chauncey Kershaw, Patti and Ed Krikorian, Richard Monzingo, Gene Olsen, Lefty Pfingst, Betty and Frank Swift, Ed Tracey and Maria Mersell, Jack Whitley and Jackie Stewart, Keely and Brad Patridge, and De Nae and Sidney Birdsley.

From the 396th were Lois and Jerry Allee, Marjean and John Baglietto, Corinne and Lou Beisser, Louis Bodenheimer, Joe Coady, Betty and Bud Evans, Terry and Doc Eyer, Bruce Hanson, Dwight and Henry Hebert, LaVerne and Keith Ingstad, Vicki Trucker Jozefiak, Bill Loman, Bobbie and Bill MacMinn, Nan and Gus Mirzaoff, Bernie and Nathan Mitchell, Judy Mitchell Perdue, Skip and Curt Oakes, Maureen and John Reich, Linda and Jim Reich, Louise and Nick Dilts, Jerrine and Bill Murphy, Lola and Bill Scavo, Betty and Bud Sharp, Pat and Dick, Sternberg, Sheryl and Dick Taylor, Walt Winner and Joyce Haddock, Bill Zingery and Bettye Nedbalek.

From the 820th were Enid and Gus Anderson, Jean and Bill Childs, Nervie Crossin, Delia and Felix Dreyfus, Howard Dungan, Clare and Morgan Molloy, Craig Norton, Marion and Richard Rarey, and Rene and Skip Thrune.

From the 41st Bomb Group were Frankie and Murray Bywater, and Betty and Glenn Penner.

BOB HOPE

October 14, 1999

Kemble Urban Sitterley
20449 Blue Mountain Drive
Walnut, CA 91789-1001

Dear Mr. Sitterley:

Thank you for thinking of Mr. Hope with regard to your reunion. Unfortunately, Mr. Hope will not be able to participate.

For some time now Mr. Hope has been restructuring his calendar and activities. Interviews and requests such as your have made way, for the most part, for more golf, writing, and producing. I'm sure you feel, like we do, that he's entitled.

Mr. Hope has asked me to tell you that he appreciates your thinking of him and he thanks you for taking the time to write such a nice letter.

All good wishes to you.

Sincerely,



Annette Siegel
Secretary

North Hollywood
CA 91602-2499



What in human nature makes us do things like build memorials, put out commemorative stamps, have an "in memoriam" item of some sort on most all agenda of reunions, conventions, meetings, etc.? So I want to give a very short talk at our reunion on "In Memoriam." just WHAT DO I SAY?

CONTRADICTION – My mind wanders and I think, "I mourn because my pilot and tail gunner have gone on before, but I'm elated that my co-pilot is here with me at the reunion and I am in regular e-mail correspondence with my radio operator." ... and of course we've all been to funerals where there is a sad hour or two or services mixed in with a day or two of glorious (sometimes uproarious) family reunion.

FAMILY – ...and this being a reunion of a military outfit, I think of my Dad and his Victory Letter home to his Dad in 1918, and of course that brings up a memory of Grandpa and his Civil War Diary, from which my favorite entry was, "...attacked Hill 319 today...was repulsed...no wonder, all the officers was drunk!" I, of course, think of our son, Kurby, killed at 25½ in a dumass auto accident. I think of Kacey, our grandson, killed at 24½ in a senseless electrocution at a boat dock gas pump. I think of my kids who asked, "Were those covered wagons really hard riding?" and the grandkids, "**DID YOU REALLY FLY IN B-25'S?**" (Are they as old as covered wagons?)

AN ENIGMA OF HUMOR LISZT vs. PETRARCH...and as my mind strays, I'm listening to this glorious music by Liszt and decide to investigate. I am listening to, "Sonetto 104 del Petrarca," inspired by Sonnet No. 104 by Petrarch....I read this sonnet and cannot believe it!!!... TALK ABOUT SERENDIPITY, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO SAY!! and I research further, rewinding about two centuries and dig up some interesting facts...Liszt was somewhat of the Frank Sinatra of his day with all the ladies vying for his attention, except that instead of a singer, he was a pianist virtuoso as well as a noted composer. One of his historians had documented 26 major love affairs. Have you ever stopped to think just what a "major love affair," is? Surely we all know more about presidential love affairs than we want to. I know something of a lieutenant love affair... that's 55 years of a honey-do list. Now rewinding another four centuries, Petrarch was almost diametrically opposed. He was sort of like presidential advisors Bernie Baruch or David Gergen of his day. He was much in demand as an advisor, speech-maker, etc. by the kings, doges, popes, etc. He was greatly renowned as an author and poet. He was also a lifelong friend of Boccaccio. He may have been married a time or two but was never in love until April 6, 1327, when he met Laura at the church of St. Clara in Avignon. Petrarch's magnificent poetry...of a lifetime demonstrate that she was a married woman with three children who accepted his homage but refused intimate relations.and so poor Petrarch, not being like Liszt or our present president, spent the rest of his life writing this beautiful poetry to his Laura and adoring her from afar.

....BUT I HAVE FOUND WHAT I WANTED TO SAY. IT'S PETRARCH'S SONNET # 104, AND IT IS QUOTED OVERLEAF. IT WAS PART OF THE BANQUET PROGRAM. The amended copy is the one that was used at the banquet.

SORT OF THE FINAL IRONY – This magnificent poetry, which is exactly what I wanted to say was written by Petrarch, a man who really never had a love affair and yet it inspired a man with documented dozens of major love affairs, Liszt, to compose such beautiful music four centuries later.

EPILOGUE – Laura died of the plague, April 6, 1348. This, along with several other friends' deaths from various reasons, formed a major turning point in Petrarch's life (1304-1374). The poems, "In Morte di Madonna Laura," (loosely translates, "In death of the Lady Laura") were of a much more religious tone. He continued to write this poetry to Laura for the rest of his life. He made a trip to Boccaccio's home to firm up his relationship with him. Boccaccio carried his admiration for Petrarch to the point of worship. Liszt (1811-1886) wore many hats with distinction – composer, pianoforte virtuoso, music critic, conductor, teacher, champion of Berlioz and Wagner, etc. Liszt never married. He lived with the comtesse d'Agoult for a few years with whom he had three children He also settled in at Weimar with Princess SaynWittgenstein from 1848 to 1861. Liszt retired to Rome in 1861 and joined the Franciscan order in 1865. The Princess Wittgenstein, it has been said, was determined to marry him, but this was not what Liszt or her family wanted, so Cardinal Hohenlohe quietly had him ordained. (Can you imagine? – Sinatra ordained?)

OOOPS!...BACK TO REALITY – fast forward about six centuries... my reverie is over... Grandma just came in and asked, "Would you please put the proper postage on this little box and come show me how to work the clicker?"... she also asked, "What are you writing?" ... and when I told her she asked, "Do you really think anybody cares?" Is this what to expect after 55 years? I said, "Yes, I care!"

YOU WANNA BUY STUFF? –

A tape of the banquet program is \$12.00, mail it to me, Kem Sitterley. I'll keep \$3.89 for shipping expenses and mail \$8.11 to the appropriate squadron treasury. This tape is 2½ hours long and it includes one hour of the piano man, Wayland Pickard, who is sort of a combination of Victor Borge and Mark Russell

A key fob with the 47th logo, mail me \$6.00 and I'll keep \$2.19 and mail \$3.81 to the appropriate squadron treasury. A key fob with the 48th logo, write John Helmer. A current roster of the 47th is \$5.00, mail to Gutts.... still have a few place mats left ... mail me \$7.00 and I'll keep \$3.50 for shipping expenses and mail \$3.50 to Gutts or John or Zing.

EVENING PROGRAM

(emcee – Kem Sitterley)

6:30 Presentation of colors -- Honor Guard
Invocation -- Bill Childs
Dinner -- Everybody
Bob Hope Dedication – Tony Romano
In Memoriam – Kem Sitterley
(with help from Petrarch and Franz Liszt)
State of the Group, 41st and introduction of General Whaley
Murray Bywater
State of the Air Force, Commanding General of 4th Air Force
General Whaley
State of the Squadron, 47th – George Tolbert
State of the Squadron, 48th – John Helmer
State of the Squadron, 396th – Bill Zingery
State of the Squadron, 820th – Skip Thrune

Wayland Pickard --Fun guy.... He's like Victor Borge, and Mark
Russell rolled into one –

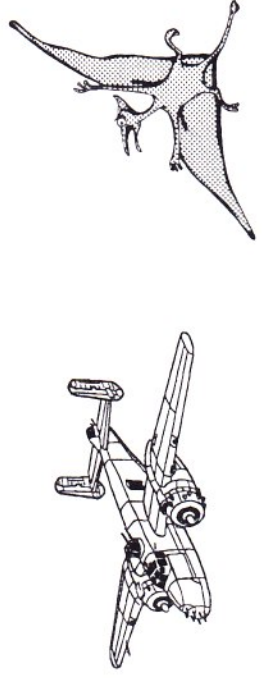
Raffle of door prizes – Bill Scavo

Various announcements

Retirement of colors – Honor Guard with everyone singing the
"Army Air Corps Song" ... (words overleaf)

Music, dancing, good conversation to Big Band
type music by the organist....OLDIES BUT GOODIES??

Farewells for those who must leave early in the morning



PETRARCH'S SONNET # 104

Peace I find not, yet I am not for war,
I tremble yet hope, I burn yet am ice,
I fly above heaven and bow to the earth
I hold nothing yet I grasp at all,
Love has me prisoner, and will not release me,
Neither will he hold me in toil
He neither slays or unchains me,
Allows me no joy, nor my sorrow to cease.
Without eyes I see, lacking words I mourn;
I scorn to die, yet cling to life,
I reject myself and burn for another,
Nurtured by grief, laughing with tears,
I despise equally death and life.
In this state, Lady, am I yours.

....AND WITH APOLOGIES TO PETRARCH AS ADAPTED FOR TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Peace I find not, yet I am not for war,
I tremble yet hope, I burn yet am ice,
I fly my B-25 high above the clouds and dip my wings to salute
my old comrades in arms who have gone on before...
Memories have me prisoner, and will not release me,
Neither will they hold me in toil
They neither slay or unchain me,
Allow me no joy or my sorrow to cease.
Without eyes I see, lacking words I mourn;
I scorn to die, yet cling to life,
I reject myself and yet I remember you guys
Nurturing my grief, laughing with tears,
I despise equally death and life.
In this state, old buddies, am I yours.