

HARDLIFE HERALD

Newsletter of the 385th Bombardment Group
Association



548th



549th

550th



551st



1942 - 1945 Great Ashfield - Suffolk, England Station 155 - The Mighty Eighth

Volume 32 - Number 1

March 2015



385th BGA REUNION - OMAHA, NE - October 2015

HARDLIFE HERALD

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Check us out online:

www.385thBGA.com

www.facebook.com/385thBGA

Front Cover: Operation Chowhound Mission

Back Cover: 42-30279 "Black Jacker"

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HARDLIFE HERALD

Newsletter of the 385th Bombardment Group
Association



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well I certainly hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season and are well on your way to a healthy and happy 2015. I don't know about you, but the time just seems to be flying by. We have barely wrapped up our Nashville Reunion and it's time to start thinking about this year's October reunion at the Doubletree Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska. Once again, we will be having our "reunion within a reunion" with the national 8th Air Force Historical Society and will benefit from the planning and organizational skills of Armed Forces Reunions Inc. More information will be provided as it is firmed up.

For the past year or so, we have been in the midst of a string of "70th Anniversary" events from World War II. Celebration doesn't quite seem to be the right word to describe some of these events; remembrance, recognition, memorialization and commemoration, to name a few, are more fitting. Although "celebration" may well be appropriate as we mark the 70th anniversary of the war's end. In late April, the people of Holland will mark the 70th anniversary of Operation Manna/Operation Chowhound wherein B-17s of the 385th Bomb Group and others dropped urgently needed food at designated drop zones to help alleviate the civilian population's devastating shortage of food. Although the war's end was imminent, it was not yet ended and a special truce had to be negotiated to permit these food drops. While the truce was, for the most part, honored, at least one B-17 from the 385th BG was fired on and sustained what is believed to be the last battle damage of the war for the 385th.

I hope to be able to attend some portion of this commemoration and to represent the 385th BG Association as I will be vacationing in Amsterdam at that time (viewing the tulip gardens with my wife). If you're interested in more information on this event, (the 70th anniversary, not the tulip viewing) please let me know!

EDITOR'S MESSAGE BULLET POINTS

-New Crew Photos: The response to the September issue was overwhelming to say the least and I am *still* receiving mail with new crew photos. In this issue you will see a couple dozen crew and group photos that were not printed in the last issue as they were not in my archives; also some corrections due to mislabeled photos and human error.

-Archives: My original plan was to get a post reunion edition out in December, however I had an excellent opportunity to take a trip to the Archives II in DC and photograph over 20 folders of 385th records. The quality is incredible and hopefully down the road I can continue to do further archiving there. More on this next issue along with some great photos from the 2014 reunion.

-Legion of Honour Application: On page 16 there are several forms to fill out and submit if you would like to apply for the French Legion of Honor medal. There are some requirements: Unfortunately this is not something they do posthumously (though it's this Editor's opinion that anyone who served ETO deserves this honor) and you must have flown in a French campaign (ie: Chowhound, French Special, D-Day). There are many offices in which to submit your application and it goes by district, so please feel free to contact me for more information. It takes about 11 months to receive this award.

As always, if you've written to me about content you've sent for inclusion in the HH and you do not see it in this issue, please feel free to remind me via phone, email or letter.

-Charles

BARTLEY, GEORGE V. CREW



**BASH, ROBERT W. CREW
(2ND TOUR)**



BENSON, VIRGIL H. CREW



BLOOM, HUBERT I. CREW



BLOOMBERG, ARTHUR H. JR. CREW



CREAGMILE, JOHN L. CREW



DANIEL, JACK W. CREW



ECHARDT, RUBIN H. CREW



FAUBER, CLARENCE E. JR. CREW



FRYE, EARL T. CREW



GEIWITZ, CLIFFORD P. CREW



ISAACSON, EVERETT L. CREW



JACKSON, LEYEN E. CREW



KAY, HAROLD A. CREW



LACASSE, LEO W. CREW



LOGAN CREW



LOJINGER, ROBERT L. CREW



MARCUSSON, LEE R. CREW



MCSWEENEY, JOSEPH E. CREW



MESSINGER, DARL J. CREW



PALIN, LYNDOL H. CREW



PLATT, ROBERT A. CREW



POWLEY, HERBERT F. CREW



SIEFERT, MARTIN H. CREW



SMITH, ERROL E. CREW



ST. CLAIR, SAMUEL I). CREW



STALCUP, GERALD T. CREW



THRIFT, JOHN C. CREW



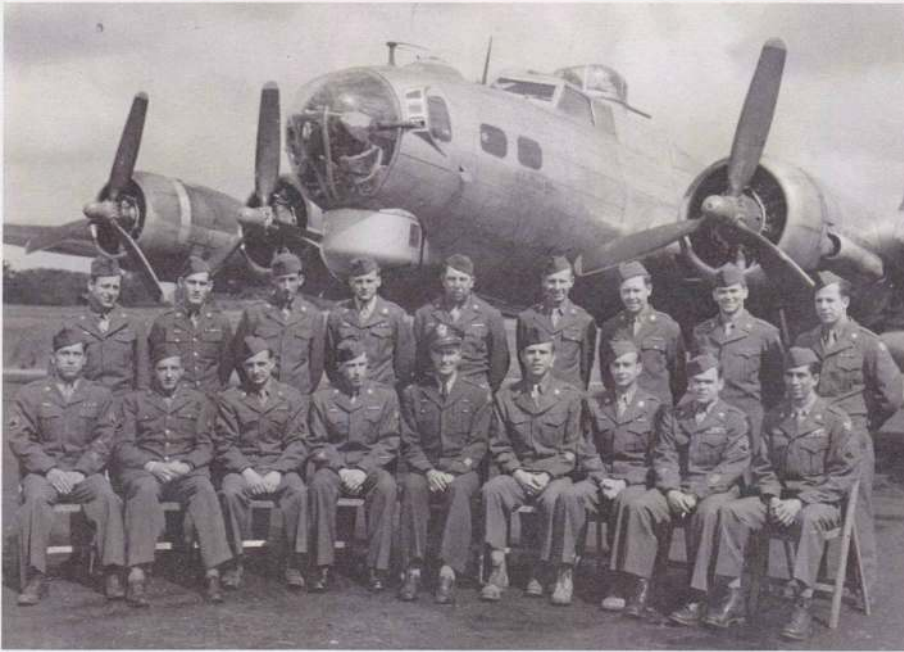
TOMAN, FLORIAN A. J. CREW



WHITE, ELMER CREW



PHOTO SECTION



548 Bomb Squadron
GX - Blue



549 Bomb Squadron
XA - Yellow



550 Bomb Squadron
SG - Red



551 Bomb Squadron
HR - Green



**THERE ARE DUPLICATE PHOTOS ON PAGES 09 AND 15 OF THE SEPT
ISSUE, THE CORRECT PHOTO DELONGS TO HART CREW (PG 15)**

**ON PAGE 38, THE WELLS CREW PHOTO IS ACTUALLY ANOTHER PHOTO
FOR SUPPLEE CREW**

**TAYLOR CREWS WERE SWITCHED ON PAGE 35 OF SEPT. ISSUE
BELOW IS THE CORRECT LABELING**

TAYLOR, DELOY CREW



TAYLOR, ROBERT M. CREW



548TH ENGINEERING



HEAD QUARTERS STAFF



HOSPITAL STAFF



MILITARY POLICE





They're Easy To Handle - 1953

FEATURED PIN-UP ARTIST

Edward Runci (1921 to 1985) was an outstanding master of pinups in oil. Runci was a portrait artist in Hollywood when he was approached by a calendar company for pinups. Runci girls frequently get caught in compromising situations climbing a fence to flee a bull, dress blowing up on a Ferris Wheel ride. His luxuriant brush strokes reveal a talent and skill comparable to Gil Elvgren, though Runci apparently is not a graduate of the Sundblom shop. Runci's early 1950s girls are rosy-cheeked, voluptuous, often blonde Marilyn Monroe-types whose wholesome sensuality radiates off the canvas. He also dabbled in the glamour-gown sub-genre, creating startlingly life-like effects in the silky folds of garments.

Edward Runci biography borrowed from The Great American Pin-up by Charles G. Martignette & Louis K.

"There I Was..." The Cartoons of Bob Stevens

AIRMEN'S HEADGEAR-WWK TVPE

FIRST SGTs AND CAMPAIGN
HATS WERE MADE FOR EACH
OTHER—



TACTICAL OFFICERS
(GROUND ROUNDERS) LOOKED
LIKE THEY HAD A DISCUS
IN THE
BRIM



CREASE MONKS vs HAD
THEIR 'G-KIPPV' MODELS



ANYONE KNOW
WHY THESE #6!
DINKIES WERE
CALLED 'OVERSEAS'
CAPS?



THEN THERE WERE THOSE FLEECE-
LINED BEAUTIES THAT ITCHED LIKE HELL.



BUT *NOTHING* COULD MATCH
THE '50-MISSION CRUSH'!



FRENCH GOV. HONORS WWII AIRMAN AUDETTE

BY JIM HAGGERTY - THE DAILY TIMES CHRONICLE, WOBURN, MASS.

WOBURN - East Woburn's "Al" Audette, 92, has been officially appointed a "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor by the government of France.

The honor came unexpectedly to the long-time Woburn who was a radio man behind the pilot of a B-17 bomber in World War II over France and Germany.

The award, says French President Francois Hollande, "testifies to the high esteem for your merits and accomplishments." "In particular, it is a sign of France's infinite gratitude and appreciation for your personal and precious contributions to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II."

On Tuesday in East Woburn, it was a time of pomp and circumstance with Consul General Fabien Fieschi bringing the award and a formal ceremony, followed by some congenial tea and croissants for Al Audette, Fieschi and the Audette family.

The Legion of Honor, it was pointed out, was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered in France by persons of exceptional merit. "The French people will never forget your courage and your devotion to the great cause of Freedom." wrote Pres. Hollande. "It is a true pleasure for me to convey to you our sincere and warm congratulations."

The letter came to Audette's home unexpectedly but left a wide smile on his face, as he showed the letter to his wife, Priscilla (better known as "Babs"), family, friends, neighbors and contemporaries who are still active with him in the local branch of the 8th Air Force Historical Society.

Audette has also been in contact with the French government through their Consul General Fieschi for several days who has offices in Boston at the Park Square Building (Fieschi being the "Consulat General de France"). And, pressed, Audette with a big smile can still churn out a bit of French with his "French Tongue" to acknowledge the award.

Albert Audette still shrugs off his ill-fated 14th mission, which ended him with the crew of 10 in the English Channel after a mission. He and the crewmen were quickly saved in 10-minutes, dried off, and put back into the four-engine B-17 for still more missions i.e. up to 30 at the time. On the 14th, flax had hit the aircraft that had damage to two engines and then a third quit as it gradually lost altitude over the English Channel.

The East Woburn resident, who was born in Pawtucket, R.I., grew up in Woonsocket, R.I. and was age 22 at the height of his bombing career. He has earned a number of



campaign ribbons including the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal.

In the local area, he is well-known for his years as a manager in the Woburn Little League and as an Exalted Ruler and long-time member of the Woburn Lodge of Elks B.P.O. E. #908. He also had a career of building air plane engines with GE.

His B-17 was named "Thorbred" that was named for the B-17's command pilot who hailed from Kentucky. He still wears a WWII baseball cap with the B-17 right out front.

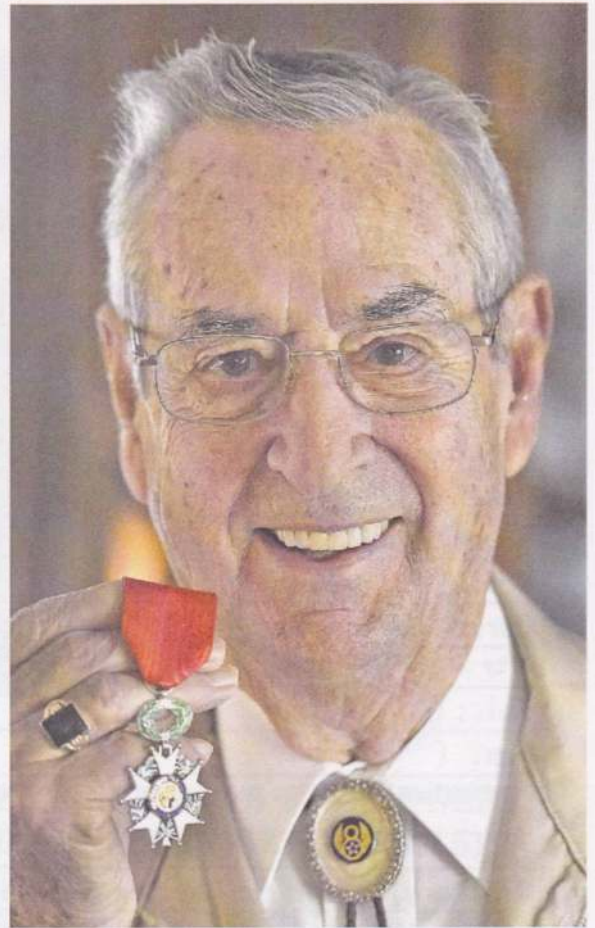
In recent years, he has been active with the local chapter of the The Eighth Air Force Historical Society, which meets at Hanscom Air Base. Also, he has a granddaughter, Sherri Flynn, living in Bremen, Germany, as she is married to a gentleman of British and German heritage, who works there - a dramatic difference from the position of the two countries in 1944.



ABOVE:
Woburn's Al Audette (r) and his wife Babs Audette (l) with the French Consul General Fabien Fieschi on the occasion of Audette being awarded the Chevalier Medal.

LEFT:
Woburn's Al Audette has the Chevalier Medal pinned on his service jacket by Consul General of France Fabien Fieschi (r)

Photography courtesy ofJoeBrownPhotos.com



Woburn's Al Audette displays the Chevalier Medal he received from the French Government for his actions in WWII.

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR

The next few pages contain the application form needed to apply for the French Legion of Honor. In order to obtain this award (it is about an 11 month process) you must have served during a campaign in French territory and you must be living, (they do not award this posthumously, however once accepted into the process they will award to next of kin if the applicant has passed).

You must apply to the French Consulate in your region and you should have any service records copied that would show proof of service in the ETO during this time. Be sure to not send any information such as social security numbers.

I will be more than willing to help any of you who care to apply through this process as I am familiar with the French Consulate regions as well as obtaining records. I have heard of various service men receiving this medal, so a ground crew member that serviced B-17s during D-Day should feel free to apply as they were still a part of that campaign. My information can be found on Page 02 (inside cover)

-Charles Lundsberg (Editor)

PROPOSAL MEMORY

For the rank of Knight in the Order of the Legion of Honor

LAST NAME :			
First name(s) :		Middle name/initial:	
Date of birth :		City/State/Zip:	
Country of birth :		Nationality :	
Social Security N°:			
Current Address :			
City :	State:	Zip code	
Tel. : ()		Cell. : ()	
Fax: ()		Ema i1: @	
Professional civilian occupation (before retirement):			
M i l i t a r y Career dur i ng the Second Wor1d War:			
Incorporation date :	Separation date	To the:	
Total duration of Services during Second World War:	 years months	
Last rank Obtained:			
Mi l i t a r y Un it/Corp :			
Mi l i t a r y Specialty:			
French official decorations already bestowed (when applying):			
American and foreign official decorations / citations bestowed :			
Wound (s) received in action ?: Yes No...D (details, place and date)			
Duration and place of captivity as Prisoner of War (when applying)?			

Chronological progress of your professional career (before retirement) :

.....
.....
.....

**Education/Un ivers ity/Co11ege
degrees :**

.....
.....

**Elective functions, missions in France and
abroad :**

.....
.....

Activities in Veterans' Associations or in the social/community field:

.....
.....
.....

Works and pub li cat i ons :

.....
.....

Family structure :Name of spouse and children / grand-children

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Name and address/tel. of 2 (two) character references:

.....
.....
.....

Additional information and remarks (at the convenience of the applicant)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

NB: Applications take at least several months to be processed. No information about the advancement of the applications can be given by phone.

When more information is needed, the Consulate contaots the applicants.

Only Veterans whose candidacy have been approved are informed, usually by mail.

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION
DOUBLETREE DOWNTOWN OMAHA
OCTOBER 14 - 18, 2015

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

See choices below and complete the Registration Form noting your event choices and personal information. By "WWII GROUP," we're asking for the group or unit in which you served (specific Bomb Group, Fighter Group, PRG, HQ, etc.). We use this information for tallying totals for each group, nametags, and seating arrangements. If you prefer to sit with a different group, please give us that information too. We do not need your squadron. Remit by mail with check or money order payable to Armed Forces Reunions by September 11, 2015. You may also register and pay with credit card online at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2015. A 3% convenience fee will be added to online credit card reservations. Forms received after September 11 will be accepted on a space available basis only. Hotel reservations should also be made by September 11, 2015.

ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. CANCELLATION POLICY

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less a \$5 per person processing fee. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less a \$5 processing fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm Eastern Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation doesn't cancel your reunion activities.

MEALS / EVENTS CHOICES

MEAL PACKAGE 1 \$212

Package includes 7 hotel food functions beginning with breakfast on Thursday (4 breakfasts, 3 dinners).

MEAL PACKAGE 2 \$148

Package includes 5 hotel food functions beginning with breakfast on Friday (3 breakfasts, 2 dinners).

The continental breakfast buffets include juice, fruit, cereals/milk, yogurt, breakfast breads, and coffee. The full breakfast buffets include juice, fruit, eggs, meat, potatoes, breakfast bread, and coffee.

CHOICE #3 INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Thursday's Buffet at \$44 is included in Package 1 but can be purchased separately. Friday's Rendezvous Dinner at \$45 (individual Bomb Group Dinners for groups of 30 or more) and Saturday's Banquet at \$45 can be purchased separately as well, but are included in both packages above.

TOUR OPTIONS

Tours and trips are described on the Reunion Highlights Pages. Prices are listed on the registration form. Driver and Staff gratuities are not included in the tour prices. All trips require a minimum of 35 people. Please be at the bus boarding area five minutes prior to the departure time.

**8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION
DOUBLETREE DOWNTOWN OMAHA
OCTOBER 14-18, 2014**

Wednesday, October 14

1:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
1:00pm Memorabilia / Gathering Room open throughout the reunion
1:00pm - 4:00pm 8AFHS Board Meeting
6:00pm - 7:00pm Welcome Reception, followed by dinner on your own.

Thursday, October 15

7:30am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast for Package #1 participants
8:00am - 11:00am **Reunion Registration open**
9:00am - 1:30pm CITY TOUR/OLD MARKET
9:30am - 12:30pm BRIEFING AT THE BUNKER (STRATCOM HQ)
1:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
2:00pm - 3:30pm Q&AWWIVets
3:45pm - 5:00pm Q&A Cold War Vets
6:00pm - 9:00pm Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm - 9:00pm Dinner Buffet - WWII Program

Friday, October 16

7:30am - 8:30am Full Breakfast Buffet for Meal Package participants
8:00am - 10:00am **Reunion Registration open**
8:30am - 10:00am Individual Group Meetings
10:00am - 11:20am Chapter & Unit Development Meeting
11:30am - 4:00pm BUZZING AT THE BLUFFS MINI AIR SHOW
2:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
6:00pm - 9:00pm 8AFHS Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm - 9:00pm Rendezvous Dinners

Saturday, October 17

7:30am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast for Meal Package participants
8:45am - 10:15am General Membership Meeting
11:00am - 4:30pm DURHAM MUSEUM / CITY TOUR
12:00pm - 4:00pm 8AFHS Board Meeting
12:30pm - 4:00pm STRATEGIC AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM
5:30pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
6:00pm - 9:00pm 8AFHS Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm - 10:00pm Banquet Dinner & Entertainment

Sunday, October 18

7:00am - 8:30am Full Breakfast Buffet for Meal Package participants



Sol Mullin
Lady Lake, Florida
2/9/17 to 1/11/15

Sol was born in Detroit and died in Lady Lake, Florida January 11, 2015. Survivors include his wife of 40 years Marie-Aline, his daughters Susan Segel, of Mt. Dora, Florida and Carol Mullin of Brier, Washington; granddaughters Jennifer Berins of Coral Springs, Florida, Melissa A. Segel (Greg Houlihanjof Atlanta, Georgia, and Andrea Robbins of Montreal Quebec; great granddaughters Amanda Berins, Jessica Berins and Lillian Houlihan; his sons in law Nick Nickerson and Jeff Robbins; and step-grandsons Noel and Seth Nickerson.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Harriette Glickman Mullin who died in 1972. Sol attended Northern High School. Sol was a decorated WWII veteran with the Eighth Air Force, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross. Sol had a few enjoyable careers, first in retail with Grayson's, followed by 25 years with the Miller Wohl Company. In 1986 he and his daughter, Susy opened Memories, a collectibles shop in Davie, Florida, which gave him years of pleasure into his 80's. Sol was a philosopher, a basement scientist, an avid reader, a man of all seasons. He shared a bit of wisdom with everyone he came in contact with. He had a sparkle that lasted his whole life. He will be missed by all.

If you wish, contributions in Sol's's memory can be made to The 8th Air Force Museum, mightyeighth.org or Cornerstone Hospice of Sumter County Florida.

2014 BELL RINGING

DONALD R. BAKER

ROBERT HARRIS

JOSEPH F. "JACK" KOERNER

ELLIS BRADFORD LANGLEY, JR.

RAY MURPHY

EARL W. OSBORNE

JOHN S. PICKETT, JR.

GARDINER ROGERS

JACK SILVERMAN

JOHN H. STANSFIELD

HIGH FLIGHT

"Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth, And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings; Sunward, I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth Of sun- split clouds - and done a hundred things You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung High in the sunlit silence. Hovring there I've chased the shouting wind along and flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.

"Up up the long delirious burning blue I' ve topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace, Where never lark, or even eagle, flew; And, while with silent, lifting mind I' ve trod The high untrespassed sanctity of space, Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

John Gillepsie Magee, Jr.

DOUBLETREE HOTEL OMAHA DOWNTOWN - OMAHA, NE

(800) 222-8733 or (402) 346-7600

www.doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/nebraska/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-omaha-downtown-OMAH-DT/index.html

Location

1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Located in the heart of downtown Omaha and just ten minutes from the Eppley Airport.

Reservation Information

Call the number above and reference the 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion or please visit www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2015 and click on the hotel reservation link at the top of the page to make reservations and receive the discounted group rate.

Group Name- 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion

Reunion Dates: October 14-18, 2015

Rate: \$105 + tax (currently 18.16%). Rates are offered 3 days before and 3 days after reunion dates, based on group block availability.

Cut off Date: 09/11/15. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

Cancellation Policy: All reservations have a 48 hour cancellation policy, or the attendee will be charged one night's room rate plus tax. All early departures are subject to an early departure penalty \$25 and late check-outs are subject to a penalty of \$75.

Unit Hospitality Suites

Hospitality Suites for individual groups will be available on the guest room floors for \$125/night, payable to the Society. This fee includes ice service and daily housekeeping. "Suites" will be two connecting sleeping rooms (with beds removed). All suites will be located in close proximity to each other so visiting between groups will be easy! To reserve a suite, please contact Donna at DonnaLee@afri.com with your name, unit name, and nights needed for hospitality suites. These rooms follow the same check-in/out pattern as normal sleeping rooms

Parking & Shuttle Information

The Doubletree Hotel is offering complimentary self parking to all overnight guests. The hotel also offers complimentary shuttle service to and from the Omaha Eppley Airfield. Upon arrival at the airport you will need to call the hotel and then proceed outside to the shared ride/taxi pickup/drop off stand outside baggage claim.

Wheelchair Rental

ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scootaround.com for details and to make reservations.



BEFORE YOU RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER...

Please consider donating it to your local School, VFW, or American Legion.



HARDLIFE HERALD
Newsletter of the 385th Bombardment Group
Association



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Previous issue pictured at left

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SUN CITY CENTER FL 33573-7095

4030120160208364102033573709514



42-30279 "Black Jacker"