



PANTANELLA NEWS

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781ST REUNION BIG SHOW IN BRANSON



The Show Must Go On
Reunion 2013 - Charleston, SC
November 10th-13th



PANTANELLA NEWS

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President: Orren Lee
 Vice President: Earl Leinart
 Treasurer: Carole Lee
 Secretary: Debbie Cherry
 Chaplin: Joseph Soucy
 Board Member: Don Munce
 Board Member: Georgia McKinnon

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781st BOMB SQUADRON (H)
 Part of the 465th Bomb Gp. 15th AF
 Italy 1944-1945

Flew 191 Missions over Southern Europe dropping thousands of tons of death and destruction to the enemy. Shot down 25 enemy aircraft. Received two Presidential Unit Citations in Seven Battle Campaigns.



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President's Letter



President Orren Lee celebrating his birthday with Daniel O'Donnell, an Irish singer/entertainer in Branson, MO.

The passing of South Dakota Senator George McGovern reminds me of when we contacted him to be our speaker at the 781st BS Reunion in Tampa. We were given his private cell phone to contact him. He was very interested in our Association and asked many

questions. He was a B-24 pilot who flew thirty-five combat missions and won the Distinguished Flying Cross for nursing his plane with two engines shot out to the short, emergency airstrip on the tiny Isle of Vis. He said he would be honored to speak to us and would except his schedule had him speaking at UCLA at the time of our reunion. He asked about us personally too. He was a very nice man. And now the rest of the story – he ran for President of the United States and was defeated in the biggest landslide in history.

We owe Debbie Cherry and Georgia McKinnon a thank you for spending the time and money to investigate the possibility of holding our reunion in Charleston, SC next year.

— Orren Lee

Museum Donation



Earl Leinart, Vice President, Orren Lee, President and Carole Lee, Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the 781st BS Association met with Ken Schroeder, the Museum Deputy Director, to present the \$5,000.00 check to be added to our Scholarship Endowment and drew up an Agreement of Understanding. We are pictured on one of the golf carts Earl arranged to have donated to the museum to transport elderly or handicapped from the parking lot to the elevated front entrance.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Dues are \$10.00 per year. The last time you paid dues is recorded on your Newsletter label. Send checks payable to 781st Bomb Squadron Assoc. to Carole Lee, 781st Bomb Squadron Treasurer, 2312 Braemar Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

781st Bomb Squadron Association Business Meeting

October 3, 2012 – 9:00 AM • Grand Plaza Hotel, Branson, MO



President Orren Lee called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by singing God Bless America. The invocation was given by Chaplin Joe Soucy.

President Lee asked the veterans to rise and be recognized. There were eight veterans who registered. The associate members were asked to introduce themselves as well.

The 2011 Business Meeting Minutes were published in the December 2011 Pantanella News, but to refresh everyone's memory, Georgia McKinnon, standing in for Secretary Debbie Cherry, read the minutes. Charles "Bubba" Braud made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read and printed. It was followed by a second and approved by membership.

Charles "Bubba" Braud gave the Treasurer's Report, standing in for Treasurer Jim Braud. There were no questions. There was a call for volunteers to audit the report. Bud Russell, Ray Cauble and George Hausold volunteered for this. The report will be filed for audit.

There was a call for any unfinished business, and none was reported.

In new business, Carole Lee gave a 2012 Reunion Report. Earl Leinart organized a speaker phone for the hospitality room, and several veterans or family members called to speak with those in attendance. Among those calling in were Al LeBlanc, Dottie Wassenaar and John Zadrozny. Frank Ambrose II called and said he would have liked to be at the memorial. He knew how important it was to his dad. Carole Lee reported that there were 34 people registered for the 2012 reunion, and then a tip was collected for Jodie, the tour guide from Gatherings Plus.

The possibility of a 2013 Reunion was discussed. Georgia McKinnon proposed Charleston, SC for a possible location. This motion was seconded and the motion was carried with the membership vote.

The Nominating Committee (Charles "Bubba" Braud, George Hausold, and Kenneth Rehn) presented the following slate of officers:

President: Orren Lee
 Vice President: Earl Leinart
 Secretary: Debbie Cherry
 Treasurer: Carole Lee
 Chaplin: Joe Soucy
 Board Members: Don Munce and Georgia McKinnon

Charles "Bubba" Braud made a motion that the nominations be closed and accepted by acclamation. The membership voted to approve the presented slate of officers.

781st Bomb Squadron Reunion Financial Report	
Income from Gathering Plus	\$448.00
Donation from Louis Deslatte	20.00
Total Revenue	\$468.00
Wine/logo labels	396.00
Beer/snacks	77.13
Scotch, whiskey, cups	27.73
Misc items donated	0
Total expense	-\$32.86



Earl Leinart gave an update on the 781st Scholarship Endowment Fund. He explained that this money is in a trust, and only the interest from the fund can be

used to sponsor a child for camp. At this time due to the balance of the Fund and the low interest rate, that the fund is not generating enough money to sponsor a child for camp. A recommendation was made by the Board to give \$5,000 from Savings to the Strategic Air and Space Museum for the Endowment Fund. After discussion by the membership, Bud Russell made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Board. This motion was seconded and passed by the membership.



The following announcements were made: Group pictures would be taken by a photographer prior to the banquet, and made available for purchase. Carole Lee also explained that the bottles of wine with the 781st labels would be available at the banquet, as they had been in the hospitality room.

President Orren Lee then asked if there was any other business that needed to be discussed. No business was presented and Bud Russell made the motion for the meeting to be closed. A second was made and President Orren Lee adjourned the meeting at 10:29 am.

Minutes prepared by Georgia McKinnon standing in for Secretary Debbie Cherry.



**Attendance at
781st Bomb Squadron
2012 Reunion**

BRANSON REUNION

Jack and Eleanor Ball (780th)

Charles (Bubba) Braud

Charlie Braud, Jr.

Robert Braud

Ray Cauble

Louis Deslatte

Michael and Julia Deslatte
and son Jeremy Deslatte

George and Veni Hausold

Glenn and Kathy Hausold

Betty Kill

Patty Kill

Dave and Phillis Krech
(Ray Cauble's daughter)

Orren and Carole Lee

Earl Leinart

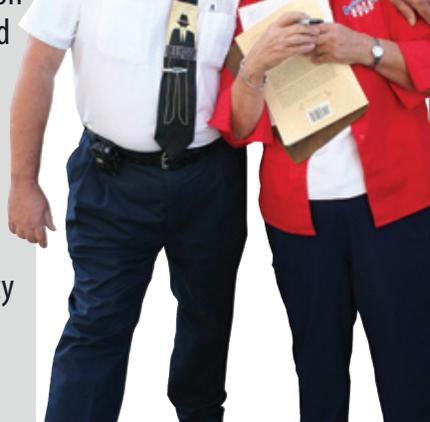
Georgia and Lance McKinnon
and sons, Daniel and David

Kenneth and Lois Rehn
and son Bill Rehn

Bud and Libby Russell

Joseph and Mary Lou Soucy

Theresa Tiehen



The reunion in Branson was absolutely wonderful! It was well planned and well organized. Kudos to Orren and Carole Lee and all the others who made our time there so very special. The reunion held special meaning for me because it was the first time I had seen Louis Deslatte since the first reunion was held in Colorado Springs in 1986! Louis and my dad, Larry Tiehen, were on George Gaines' crew. Dad attended numerous reunions over the years and he most certainly would have enjoyed all the excitement in Branson and talking over old times with Louis and the other fellows. Branson brought back a lot of wonderful memories to me. It was a joy to spend time with Louis once again and get to meet his family. The members of the 781st Squadron are a special group of people who I respect and admire greatly. Thank you for your service.
- Terri Tiehen

781st, Thank all of you so much for your thoughtfulness. I hope to see you again in the future.
- Jodie, Gatherings Plus (Pictured on left with bus driver)



When we saw your invitation to the 781st Reunion in Branson in the 780th Flightline we were hesitant to accept since we did not know any of your members. When we arrived the members of the 781st were very welcoming and made us feel part of the group. The Reunion was a very well organized and interesting with lots of great things to do, however, the stories, conversation and videos in the hospitality room were the highlights. It was so nice to meet you all. Thank you all so very much and enjoy your next reunion.
- Jack & Eleanor Ball

781st Bomb Squadron 2012 Reunion SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



FOLDED WINGS



KEN PARKHURST,
a long time resident of Walnut Creek passed away on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 with his loving wife of 65 years, Elaine, at his side. Ken is survived by

Elaine, his two children Gary, his wife Carol and Janet, her husband Matthew Hladek, six grandchildren, As a proud American, Ken served as a Lieutenant in the Army Air Corp, flying B-24's during WW II. He graduated from the University of California Berkeley in 1949. After graduation, Ken joined O.C. Jones & Sons as a civil engineer, enjoying a 38 year career and retiring as the General Manager. Ken was a vibrant and thoughtful man who cared deeply for his family and had a passion for the outdoors. He loved to fish, play golf and spend time at their summer home in Lake Almanor. He got no greater pleasure than spending time at "the cabin" and seeing family and friends enjoy their mountain get away. He found travel irresistible, always with Elaine at his side, visiting over 60 countries and all 50 states. Ken was an avid Giants and 49er fan and maintained his faith in God through his 60 years as a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.



DALE L. SAMUELSON
February 13, 1922 -
August 24, 2012
Co-pilot, Hudson Crew

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our fallen comrades who have found everlasting peace. You have served your country well. We will remember you forever.

Frank Ambrose - Funeral Services for Frank were held July 30, 2012 at the National Cemetery in Saratoga, NY.



781st "PANTANELLA NEWS"

Orren Lee, President
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