



**6th Bomb Group
Association**

**TINIAN ISLAND
1944 - 45**

**JUNE
2012**



OCTOBER 4 - 7, 2012 PAY IT FORWARD IN CHARLESTON!

It was a pleasant surprise when the board announced in San Diego that Charleston, SC would be the 2012 destination for our 24th reunion. The Hilton Garden Inn - Airport will graciously host the 6th Bomb Group beginning Thursday, October 4 thru Sunday, October 7, 2012. This year's reunion promises an enjoyable 3 days of camaraderie with fellow veterans and their families as we

"Pay it Forward". Hotel registration information is on the registration page of the newsletter.

Charleston has a lot to offer in the way of history, sight seeing, low-country cuisine and good old Southern hospitality. All those attending this year's reunion should take advantage of the

discount rates available three days before and after the event to visit the local hot spots on their own. For those with shopping on their minds, the Hilton Garden Inn is adjacent to the Tanger Outlet where 125 shops await you, and a free shuttle is available.

Thursday evening we'll kick off with a wine and cheese reception in the Palmetto/Carolina Room. We have access to a beautiful patio off the Palmetto Room while the Carolina room will be dedicated as our history and video area.

On Friday, thanks to help from Retired General John Handy, we will be departing for a visit to Joint Base Charleston. Our guide for the day will be Capt. Jarrod Scoggins from the 437th Airlift Wing. He will give us a static tour of the C-17's on the flight line. Our veterans should find this interesting since the C-17 is one of the largest airplanes of today as was the B-29 in WWII. Come and see what "Large" means in today's Air Force. Lunch in the officers club will be available along with a meet and greet with the Base Commanders. Friday evening



at 7:00 PM, storyteller Eric Lavendar and his Parrot Captain Bob will be in the hospitality suite for a brief, entertaining talk, on how Pirates played a part in the history of Charleston.

Saturday morning we will be taking a short bus tour of historic Charleston, including the Citadel. At 11:00 AM we will

stop at the market place for some free time shopping or dining in one of the many quaint restaurants along Market Street. The option is also available to board a horse drawn carriage for a professionally guided, one-hour tour of the downtown historic district. Upon returning to the hotel, we will have our general membership meeting and the banquet Saturday evening. Our guest speaker will be Colonel Robert J. Mastrion, USMC Ret., recipient of the Silver Star and two Purple Hearts.

Our Memorial Service will once again be Sunday morning at 9:00 AM with Jim Hays delivering his words ever so eloquently. Then will be the part-

ing hugs and good-bys until we meet again next year, unless you're joining Lori Forsman on the Veteran's Cruise.





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we close in on our 2012 reunion in Charleston, I am thinking about the change in member numbers that has occurred in the past decade. In San Diego I counted 19 original 6th Bomb Group men where we once had nearly 300 per reunion. And of those 19 men 10 were using wheel chairs,

crutches or canes. We are so fortunate that we have 6th children that will take over the difficult and unseen activities for the few of us still left. Be sure to thank them at the reunion as they are doing us all a great favor with a wonderful job.

If anyone thinks a reunion in Charleston should be easy, I would remind them that Boeing Charleston, so far at least, has refused to consider any visit or assistance with this reunion due to their difficult challenge of opening a new location to build a newly designed aircraft. Charleston will be the first ever Boeing location other than Western Washington to build commercial aircraft and they are finding it more difficult than they had originally expected. On the other hand other agencies and attractions in Charleston have welcomed us with open arms so the reunion should go very well.

The proposed Grand Island airport 6th historical display has been postponed until 2013 to make sure they get it just right. We now are told this will originally be displayed in the entrance area of the Airport Terminal but it should be suitable for permanent display inside their proposed new Airport Terminal. When this is ready next year it will be announced and any 6th members will be welcomed at the dedication. I'll have more details about this at the reunion for those interested.

I am also aware that we need to do some serious consideration as to how we proceed in the future with the Association. Personally I'd hope we can hang in there for another 10 years but we need to have a discussion in Charleston to determine how the majority feels. So please attend the member meetings and let us all discuss this. I look forward to seeing you in Charleston.

☆ Virgil Morgan ☆

Sorry about that...

Unfortunately, we erred in the January Newsletter by not listing the following attendees at the San Diego Reunion.

Larry & Chris Dananay, Kevin Donahue,
Marty & Katlin Farquhar, Don & Dodie Gleacher,
Tracy & Aaron Litzenberg, Ward & JoAnne Litzenberg,
Marilyn McKay, Virgil Morgan ,
Warren & June Moyer, William Polson ,
Hal & Carol Whiteside, Susan & Nicole Williamson

FROM THE EDITOR



Thanks to the “next generation” or “boomers”, as so often referred to, they’re planning a reunion party. And they do know

how to do it well based on last year’s San Diego Reunion. No stones left unturned and because we’ll be at the opposite Coast this time, I’m sure the same can be said for Charleston. Please read page 3 very well as Co-Chairman of the reunion, Larry Dananay, emphasizes the “PAY IT FORWARD” theme in this year’s reunion. Reservation and Events are on page 7 and as noted the hotel allows an extra 3-day stay before and after the reunion.

For those “seafaring/adventuresome” individuals there’s an invitation to join others on page 5 for a Carnival Fantasy five-night cruise to the Bahamas following the reunion. Also on page 5 the Marines have landed again on Tinian and this time by air at North Field.

On page 4 along with “Eunice’s corner” there’s the article on reunions. It is repeated from an earlier newsletter and expresses so well the importance of getting together and how meaningful these have now become to our Associate Members. The “Help Wanted” article on page 8 will challenge your memory going back to 1945.

For all those who wish to pass the newsletter onto relatives or friends you only have to advise them to Google on the Internet Phil Crowther’s website:

<http://www.philcrowther.com/6thBG/>

Like I said a year ago, but well worth repeating, thank goodness for young people and their help in keeping the 6th Bomb Group Association alive and well, bless them all.!

☆ William B. Webster ☆

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.

What does “Pay It Forward” mean?

In the movie “Pay it Forward”, when eleven and a half year old Trevor McKinney begins seventh grade in Las Vegas, his social studies teacher gives the class an assignment to devise and put into action a plan that will change the world for the better. Trevor's plan is a charitable program based on the networking of good deeds. He calls his plan “Pay it forward”, which means the recipient of a favor does a favor for a third party rather than paying the favor back. There is no way that we can ever pay back what our 6th Bomb Group veterans have done for us, so the theme of this years reunion is to “Pay it Forward”. Now you ask, how can “I” pay it forward? Very simply, make a concentrated effort to contact crew members, family, children & grand children and encourage them to come and learn what grandpa did in the war. By doing this simple task, you will be passing on the legacy of the 6th to future generations, and in the process, enjoying the company of good friends. Our core group of veterans is diminishing with each passing year. Every newsletter we read Eunice’s Corner and see who is no longer with us. With the loss of these veterans we also lose a personal story, a small piece of

history. Maybe something funny, or even something tragic, but in either case it is gone, lost forever and not to be heard. By attending these reunions, you will be passing on or “paying forward” your or your relative’s story.

In keeping with this year’s theme, we are going to try to initiate a panel type discussion for the veterans. In this newsletter you will see an article with a few topics our historians have put together. Give them some thought, and make some notes on them to bring along with you this year to pass on. Even if you can’t personally attend, see that your comments are passed to someone who can pass it on or “Pay it Forward”.

For those that are connected to the Internet, the 6th Bomb Group Face Book page is a great place to stay in touch with what’s going on between reunions. Since we’ve started our Face Book page, there have

been inquires from relatives of 6th Bomb Group veterans looking for information on their loved ones. Please check in on Face Book and see if there is anything you can be of assistance on and “Pay it Forward”. ☆



Crew #2404 “Lady’s Delight”

Standing L to R: Romoser (Navigator), **Townsend** (Engineer), **Massey** (Radio), **Heidlebaum** (Pilot), **Boynton** (A/C), **Green** (Bombardier), **Dananay** (Right Gunner)

Bottom L to R: Spega (Left Gunner), **Creech** (Radar), **Farquhar** (CFC), **Franz** (Tail Gunner)

COMING UP IN THE JANUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

Besides covering the Charleston Reunion on the events with a bevy of our ace photographers, there’ll be a long awaited article on the historical aspect of the role the decorated 6th Bomb Group played in WW II. The bombing and mining missions flown, dates, the listing of targets, name and numbers of participating planes by squadron and degree of mission success. Also the specifics of 6th Bomb Group planes and men lost in combat and Prisoner of War members. Obviously, this will take a lot of time and effort on the

part of our Co-Historians, Phil Crowther crowther@southwind.net and David Wilson damabrca@embarqmail.com as well as those members who were there and lived it. So we are asking for your help relating to the particulars on missions as noted above. And because we may not be able to accomplish this in one newsletter it can be continued in the next. The reward of historically documenting the role of the 6th Bomb Group is reason enough to lend a hand on this project that is long in coming. ☆



IN MEMORIAM

Eunice's Corner



- ★ **Joseph R. Giardina** - From Birmingham, AL passed away on 8/3/09. A Sgt. and member of the 39th Ground Crew.
- ★ **Donald F. Goetz** - From Santa Barbara, CA passed away on 11/27/09. He was a R Gunner with Crew #2411, 24th Squadron.
- ★ **Charles R. Luke** - From Fair Oaks, CA passed away on 6/09/09. Member of the 40th Squadron.
- ★ **Richard (Rich) H. Furman** - Of Mission, TX and formerly of Boone, IA passed away 1/26/06. He was the Pilot and F/O on the plane "Battlin' Betty" for the 40th Squadron.
- ★ **Kenneth D. Moore** - Of El Dorado, KS passed away on 4/26/10. A Pfc and member of the 39th Ground Crew.
- ★ **Frank J. Daschbach** - Of Clinton, MS passed away on 1/03/10. He was a 1/Lt. and Navigator with Crew #3901, 39th Squadron.
- ★ **Howard B. Dillman** - Of Clinton, WA passed away on 3/19, 09. Member of the 39th Squadron.
- ★ **Edward J. Knight** - Of Cottonwood, AZ passed away on 3/19/11. Member of the 39th Squadron.
- ★ **Charles H. (Chuck) Neill** - Of Shalimar, FL passed away on 1/30/11. Amassing 830 combat hours. Member of the 40th Squadron. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross. He retired with 20 years of active duty service in 1968 with over 6,000 total flying hours.
- ★ **Frank W. Compitello** - Of Port St. Lucie, FL passed away on 1/19/12. He was a Pfc. Ground Crew personnel in the 24th Squadron.
- ★ **Loren Earnest (Lt. Col. Retired)** - Of Madras, OR passed away in March 2012. He was Navigator on Squadron Crew #3902 in which Harry George was pilot. His beloved wife had passed away just three weeks earlier.
- ★ **Richard J. McGowan** - Of Bronx, NY passed away on 8/30/11. He was a radioman in the 39th Squadron.
- ★ **Don R. Waitman** - Of Forsyth, MT passed away on 10/11/11. He was a Cpl. Ground Crew personnel in the 40th Squadron.
- ★ **Joseph N. Rotondi** - Of Lincolnville, Maine passed away on 5/31/12 at the age of 87. Joe was a SSgt in the 40th Squadron as radio operator on "Flak Alley Sally".

Eunice Plax maintains the "place of record" for deceased 6th Bomb Group Members. Please send information to: Eunice Plax, 10312 West Talisman Road, Sun City, AZ 85351 (623) 875-0501 or eunicep@cox.net

Reunions

These inspirational words of prose capture the essence and the reality of our reunions. I submit them for your eyes, possibly producing a tear, but then a resolve to attend our reunion in Charleston. . .

- Harry George, Historian Emeritus -

Autumn leaves, rustling together to the appointed place, the old warriors come. Pilgrims, drifting across the land they fought to preserve. Where they meet is not so important anymore, they meet, that's enough for now.

Greetings echo across a lobby. Hands reach out and arms draw buddies close. Embraces, that as young men they were too uncomfortable to give, too shy to accept so lovingly. But deep within these Indian Summer days, they have reached a greater understanding of life and love. Their shells holding their souls are weaker now, but hearts and minds grow vigorous remembering.

On a table someone spreads old photographs, a test of recollection. And friendly laughter echoes at shocks of hair gone gray or white, or merely gone. The rugged slender bodies lost forever; yet they no longer need to prove their strength.

Some are sustained by one of "medical miracles", and even in this fact they manage to find humor. The women, all those who waited, all those who love them, have watched the changes take place. Now, they observe and listen, and smile at each other, as glad to be together as the men. Talk turns to war and planes and foreign lands.

Stories are told and told again, reweaving the threadbare fabric of the past. Mending one more time the banner of their youth. They hear the vibrations, feel the shudder of metal as

propellers whine and whirl, and planes come to life. These birds with fractured wings can see beyond the mists of clouds, and they are in the air again, chasing the wind, feeling the exhilaration of flight, close to the heavens; the wild blue yonder of their anthem. Dead comrades, hearing their names spoken, wanting to share in this time, if only in spirit, move silently among them.

Their presence is felt and smiles appear beneath misty eyes. Each, in his own way, may wonder who will be absent another year. The room grows quiet for a time. Suddenly, an ember flares to life. Another memory burns. The talk may turn to wars and other men, and of futility.

So, this is how it goes. The past is so much the present. In their ceremonies, the allegiances, the speeches, and the prayers, one cannot help but hear the deep eternal love of country they will forever share. Finally, it is time to leave. Much too soon to set aside this little piece of yesterday, but the past cannot be held too long for it is fragile. They say, "Farewell...See you next year, God willing," breathing silent prayers for one another. Each keeping a little of the others with him forever. ☆

Reprinted from the May 2005 6th Bomb Group Newsletter with permission from the 330th Bomb Group President Bob Flishel

- NORTH FIELD - COMES ALIVE ONCE AGAIN

With two-thirds of the Island of Tinian leased by the US Department of Defense, the Marine Corps (How fitting is that?) will conduct training exercises on West and North Field this summer. The latter was the world's largest operational airbase during WW II. The announcement noted work on North Field would include

clearing, stripping and repairing the landing surface on Abel and Baker runways and installing matting for vertical take-off and landing of rotary and fixed-wing operations. When completed it will allow Marine Aircraft Group 12 out of Japan to improve aviation combat readiness and simulate operations in a "deployed austere environment". North Field was the launching pad for the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that decades ago played a decisive role to end WW II. It is not anticipated there will be any closure of North Field and tour buses will continue daily trips to Runway Able and the Atomic Bomb Loading Area.

☆



Marine C-130 about to touchdown on North Field Runway Baker. First landing there since 1947.



North Field, Tinian 1945

Veterans Voyage At Sea - October 7th to 12th, 2012

For those of you who would like to extend your trip, Lori Forsman is looking for members and friends to join her on the Carnival Fantasy's Veteran's Voyage at Sea. The cruise leaves at 4pm, Sunday October 7th, 2012 from Charleston for a five night cruise to the Bahamas. It returns on Friday morning, October 12th, leaving you time to fly out of

Charleston that day. For more details or help with any questions, contact Lori directly at loriforsman@aol.com or by phone at 814-833-3111. Lori and several others are already booked and are looking for more to join her. Extending the reunion into the cruise will surely make this a trip to talk about until we meet again next year. See you on board!!!



VETERANS PANEL DISCUSSION



We were successful at San Diego's Reunion to begin collecting bits and pieces from our Veterans on their life in the military. We're now reaching out to all of the 6th Bomb Group Regular Members. Those who will attend the Charleston reunion and be a part of the panel discussion and equally important those who may not attend but will receive this newsletter. You may not feel that your particular war time service was important

but you're wrong. The 6th Archives need it and the WW II Museum needs it and the world needs it. So all you out there take pen to paper or fingers to the computer and in a few sentences please respond to the topics that the committee, Lori Forsman, David Wilson and Larry Dan-anay selected. Your response should be sent to:
Lori Forsman, LoriForsman@aol.com
4656 W. Lake Rd., Erie, PA 16505-1442

- ✦ POW supply missions, loading procedures, briefings, emotions, etc. POW's could speak to their emotions regarding these flights.
- ✦ Most humorous event during their time in WW II (Stateside or Tinian)
- ✦ Most memorable event for them during WW II (Stateside or Tinian)
- ✦ "Show of Force" mission of 2 Sept 45, recollections of that day and the flight over the USS Missouri.
- ✦ Activities on Tinian after the war.
- ✦ How their WW II experiences shaped their lives.



HELP WANTED

Over the years in keeping our mailing list updated, Regular Members have moved with no forwarding address or are deceased and we've lost all contact with them. In the case of the latter, we would like to continue sending our newsletters to their widows or a family member. Please look over the following names and send any mailing information you might have to the following address,
William B. Webster, 29277 Garrard Avenue, Frontenac, MN 55026.

Beale, Nolan A.
Boyd, Charles L.
Catherman, Charles O.

Christensen, Myron A.
Duggan, Joseph D.
Goodyear, Howard J.

Kolthoff, Henry H.
Lerman, Abe
Robinson, Chester J.

Vanders, Paul L.
Warshaw, Melvin
Wilson, Robert R.



EMAIL ADDRESSES

Your Editor is reminded by one of our younger Associate Members that the Internet is alive and well in regards to communicating with others. So the suggestion has been made that any Regular and Associate Members who care to be "more communicative" with like-minded members, please send your email name/address to Lori Forsman LoriForsman@aol.com who has agreed to be "Chief Keeper" of all such information.



Report on our Treasury Balance

Our diligent Treasurer, Warren Higgins, reports that the balance on hand as of 5/26/2012 is \$11,235 with all checks deposited and all bills paid.



Reunion Registrations

When making reservations for the Reunion, please include your email address. This will allow the Reunion Committee to reply, "We got it!" And if there's any reason to question any part of it, they can respond to you promptly.

hotel

6th Bomb Group Hotel Registration

October 4th to 7th, 2012
 Hilton Garden Inn / Airport
 5625 International Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29418
 Phone: (843) 308-9330
 Website:
http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/C/CHSAHGI-BOM-20121004/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Each 6th Bomb Group Member who attends the reunion:

- ☆ Must make their own reservations by using the website or calling the above telephone number.
- ☆ If booking by phone, must identify themselves as a 6th Bomb Group Member (Group Code BOM) to qualify for the special room rate.
- ☆ All reservations must be guaranteed by a credit card.
- ☆ Room rates available, upon request, 3 days prior and 3 days after our event.
Room Rate: Single/Double \$119.00 plus tax and includes breakfast. Suites available at additional charge.
- ☆ Reservations must be received by 09/08/2012 to receive special room rate.
- ☆ Check-in Time is 3:00 PM and check-out is 12:00 noon.
- ☆ With each room key packet, you will receive a voucher to use for breakfast in the Great American Grill.
- ☆ The Hilton Garden Inn is a non-smoking facility. Handicap accessible rooms available upon request.
- ☆ Complimentary shuttle service is available to and from airport. On arrival of flight, call (843) 308-9330.
Collect luggage before calling since the hotel is only 10-minutes from the airport.
- ☆ Complimentary guest parking is available at hotel.

Cancellation of Room Reservations:

- ☆ Guests are responsible to pay for their own accommodations. Deposits are refunded or credited only if notice is received 72 hours prior to arrival date, and guests must obtain a cancellation number.
- ☆ The hotel can pre-arrange a specific drop-off and pick-up time for the shuttle to take guests to the Tanger Outlets. See the front desk for details.
- ☆ Upon request, the Hotel can do one pre-arranged drop-off and pick-up to the downtown area per day. Cost for this service is \$15.00 per person and the shuttle can hold 10 people. You and your group would be responsible for setting this up.
- ☆ We have tried to keep walking to a minimum. For those who have difficulty with walking, please feel free to bring along a wheelchair or a walker with a seat. The marketplace has plenty of open-air areas to rest and eat.

events

6th Bomb Group Registration & Event Form

Thursday – October 4, 2012

- 3:00 PM Registration Open
Palmetto/Carolina Room – 1st Floor
- 5:00 PM Wine & Cheese Reception
Palmetto/Carolina Room – 1st Floor
Dinner on Your Own

Friday – October 5, 2012

- 7:00-9:00 AM Complimentary Breakfast
Great American Grill
- 9:00 AM *Sharp* Meet at Pre-function area near the Ball Room. Buses leave for Joint Base Charleston. Tour Air Base & C-17's.
Lunch at the Officer's Club.

Transportation Fee \$23.00 pp x _____ \$ _____

- 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM Dinner on Your Own
- 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Board Meeting
- 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Panel Discussion
- 7:00 PM Palmetto/Carolina Room Eric Lavender and Captain Bob–Pirates Of Charleston

Saturday – October 6, 2012

- 7:00-9:00 AM Complimentary Breakfast
Great American Grill
- 9:00 AM *Sharp* Meet at Pre-function area near the Ball Room. Buses leave for Historic Charleston City Tour.

11:00 AM Free Time at Market Place

11:15 AM Optional Carriage Ride.

Lunch on your own in the Market Place.

Bus Tour Only \$45.00 pp x _____ \$ _____

Bus Tour & Carriage Ride \$65.00 pp x _____ \$ _____

- 1:40 PM Sharp Busses Depart for Hotel
- 3:00 PM 6th Bomb Group General Membership Meeting
- 6:00 PM Social Hour – Pre-Function Area
- 7:00 PM Banquet Dinner - Cypress Ballroom
If you want a vegetarian dinner, please check _____
Opportunity Drawings (Proceeds to Scholarship Fund) & Guest Speaker
\$43.00 pp x _____ \$ _____

Sunday – October 7, 2012

- 7:00-9:00 AM Complimentary Breakfast
Great American Grill
- 9:00 AM Sunday Morning Memorial Service
Palmetto/Carolina Room – 1st Floor
Registration Fee

Members/Spouses/Guests \$15.00 pp x _____ \$ _____

Total Check \$ _____

Member Name (for name tag) _____

Spouse/Guest Name (for name tag) _____

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

Lawrence M. Dananay
 224 Indian Hill Road
 Leechburg, PA 15656-8536

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

6th BOMB GROUP 2012 REUNION

Please include Phone & E-mail Address w/Check

The numbers next to your name indicate your current membership status.

Board of Directors

Virgil Morgan Sr., President
 Robert E. Reagan, Vice President
 Edgar L. "Ed" Vincent, Secretary
 Warren R. Higgins, Treasurer
 John Creek
 Steve Hays
 Herbert C. Horst
 Jack Koser
 Newell W. Penniman, Jr.
 William B. Webster

☆☆☆ **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT** ☆☆☆

Dues payment applies to the current year and years going forward as all past dues are forgiven. Membership dues are paid through the last year of the numbers following your name on the newsletter label above.

Member _____
 Spouse/Other _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Dues are \$15 per year.
 Paid for Year(s): __ 2012 __ 2013 __ 2014
 Regular Member _____ Associate Member _____
 Total Enclosed \$ _____
 Make check payable to 6th Bomb Group
 (check or money order please, no cash)
Mail to: Warren Higgins, 12962 Brookwood Drive
 Huntley, IL 60142-7625



It's interesting what occasionally pops up on the Internet as Co-Historian David Wilson found this photo of the 6th Bomb Group's Pirate flag; note the coral, so it has to be on Tinian. Can anyone help us identify the "flag holders", their squadron, who did the artwork and what may have happened to the flag? Please advise David at 3540 Gallagher Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32309 or email: damabrca@embarqmail.com