



416th Bomb Group Newsletter 2018



**Veterans and spouse of deceased veteran attending the 416th Bomb Group reunion in
Abilene, Texas, October 3-7, 2018**

Left to right: Roland Dullnig, Dave Andrews, Mickie Weinert, Bob Kehres
(Photo courtesy of Jean Sittarich)



A bronze memorial plaque, conceived in 1992 by SSgt Frank Basford of the 669th Bomb Squadron, has been installed at nine locations in the United States and abroad. The history of this project, including photographs and locations of the memorial sites has been published by Rick Prucha online at https://www.416th.com/416th_BronzeMemorialPlaques.html

A 12"x12" mounted photo on canvas of the variation above, ideal for wall hanging, is now available for sale via the Archive Store online at <https://416tharchivestore.ecwid.com>

Happy New Year to all!



Dr. Williams presents Col. Brandon Parker, Commander of the 7th Bomb Wing, with a 416th Bomb Group Challenge Coin

Dear 416th Family and Friends,

Another year has come and gone. We sadly bid farewell and God Speed to Wayne Downing and Hilaria Huff this year—two of our beloved friends and stalwart reunion pals. With the number of survivors and spouses diminishing, we were very fortunate this year to have a representative from each of the four squadrons of the 416th. Professor Vernon Williams, who has become well acquainted with many of our group at recent reunions and has done much to support the Archive's efforts, hosted the 2018 reunion in Abilene. It was a memorable gathering with an exceptional schedule of activities. There were many familiar faces among those present and a few new faces that were very welcome. Rick Prucha's traditional and popular review of the recent reunion is posted on the 416th website and on the following pages here.

Through countless hours of loving and dedicated volunteer research, the Archive website continues to grow and has become a high traffic site on the internet with an astounding degree of information about the history, personnel, missions and equipment of the 416th. Check it out and see what's new! <https://www.416th.com>

The preservation and educational activities by and for the Archive have been supported over the past decade by a considerable number of 416th family members—through crucial donations of data and memorabilia, but also through their generous financial assistance. The Archive Board of Directors sincerely appreciates that help and inspiration from each and every one of you. A special thank you is extended to the Carl and Barbara Stanley Trust and the Harold D. Andrews Trust. Their continuing support has made it possible for us to grow and better accomplish our mission. In 2019, we hope to create additional revenue through grant applications and thereby add some specialized skills, equipment and techniques to our effort.

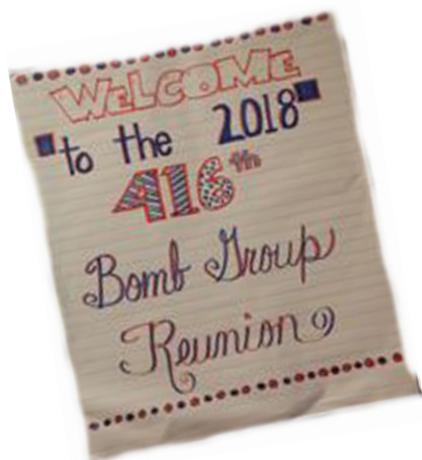
Those who have been reading these newsletters for a decade or more will remember the days when its pages were filled with family news and announcements. One of the several reasons that this year's edition is being mailed late is that we have received relatively few replies to the several requests that were sent out. Granted, the reunions are not as well attended as they were in the past, but this forum is intended not just for those who are fortunate enough to attend the reunions. It's for the entire 416th family. Lets all work together in the coming years to keep the memory and spirit of the 416th Bomb Group alive. It's one of the best ways we can honor those who carried the torch for us at one of the most critical times in our nation's history.

With best wishes,

Wayne and Doris Sayles

Reunion Summary

by Rick Prucha



THANKS to Dr. Vernon L. Williams and all those who volunteered and helped put on a WONDERFUL Reunion!

The 2018 416th Bomb Group Reunion, was headquartered at the MCM Elegaté Suites in Abilene, Texas, with over 40 attendees. Those hailing from the “Greatest Generation”, pictured on the cover of this newsletter, included 416th Bomb Group Veterans Roland Dullnig, Dave Andrews and Bob Kehres, along with Mickie Weinert, wife of the late Carl Weinert.

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Hospitality Room Reunion HQ was the Hotel 2nd floor Veranda and adjoining room used to house the delicious refreshments which were graciously kept well stocked by Doris Sayles - THANKS Doris and MCM Elegaté Suites! Wednesday saw almost everyone arriving, a few later than planned, and the comradery began immediately as if we had not been apart for the past year. Many took advantage of the free drinks provided by the hotel each evening as they regrouped at the Hospitality Room. During our visiting, we all were pleased to find out that Wayne and Doris Sayles had recently been awarded the Barney Douglas Citizen of the Year Award by the Gainesville, MO Lions Club. CONGRATS to Wayne and Doris on this well-deserved award.

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Breakfast was free at the Hotel, so everyone started early Thursday morning to get a bite to eat before gathering at 8:30 AM to load up for the trip to Dyess Air Force Base. Beau Jory Vanderburg, Dyess AFB Museum Curator, along with David Dodge and Ray Holder graciously chauffeured our group both Thursday and Friday. Before going onto the base, we visited the Dyess AFB Welcome Center and Museum where Beau Jory showed a video about the base and presented the heroic story of Lt Col William Edwin “Eddie” Dyess, one of the most decorated Soldiers from the Pacific Theater during World War II, for whom Dyess AFB is named. Lt Col Dyess was a native of Albany, Texas. He was captured by the Japanese on Bataan in April 1942, escaped in April 1943 and fought with guerilla forces on Mindanao until evacuated by submarine in July 1943. During retraining in the United States, his P-38 Lightning caught fire in flight on December 23, 1943 near Burbank, Calif. He refused to bail out over a populated area and died in the crash of his P-38 in a vacant lot.

Greeting us at the Museum were Captain Sean Bruce-Rennick, B-1 Pilot and Captain Anthony Bunker, B-1 Navigator/Bombardier, both members of the 28th Bomb Squadron, who joined our group as guides for the day. “Slice” and “Wedge”, to use their “handles” have flown many B-1 (“BONE”) missions in their career and are now instructors at Dyess. Our next stop, on the grounds of Dyess AFB, was the Linear Air Park static aircraft displays where we did a walk around and took group photos at the Douglas A-26C-50-DT Invader (converted to B-26B), Serial # 44-35913. We then had the honor of being allowed to visit the Flight Line where the 7th Bomb

Wing had a Rockwell B-1B Lancer and the 317th Airlift Wing had a Lockheed Martin C-130J Super Hercules available for our group. We were able to get up-close and personal with the B-1B, climb aboard the C-130J and spend quality time talking with flight and support/maintenance crews of both aircraft.

Lunch was at the base Longhorn Dining Facility, followed by a trip to the B-1 Flight Simulator training facility where everyone had the opportunity to take a turn in the cockpit. We finished our visit to Dyess with a roundtable discussion with several of the air and ground crew members where WWII veterans and active service personnel shared stories and exploits. Prior to the Reunion, “Wedge” put together a slide-show of 416th Bomb Group WWII photos and had it continuously playing in the breakroom. Included were several photos of Roland, Dave and Bob, our 416th Veterans, which allowed us all a glimpse into their daily lives during their tour of duty. We then returned to the MCM Eleganté Suites to rest, congregate and dine. Bob Kehres was interviewed by Nereyda Vera, reporter for the San Angelo, KIDY10 FOX News, who published her video and article on-line as “102-year-old WWII veteran recalls war stories”.

Friday, October 5, 2018

We all gathered again at 8:30 AM Friday morning for exciting tours of the 12th Armored Division WWII Memorial Museum and Frontier Texas!. Executive Director and Curator William Lenches provided excellent information and narrative as he guided our group around the 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum. While we were there, Timothy Chipp of the Abilene Reporter-News talked with several folks in our group and wrote a news article published on Saturday, 6-Oct-2018. Our Veterans were provided a deeper insight into the daily lives of the Allied ground forces the 416th BG supported from the air. Our visit at the 12th Armored Division WWII Memorial Museum ended with a video about spotter aircraft produced by Britany Huckabee, one of Vernon’s former students.

We next visited Frontier Texas!, a world class interactive museum and visitor center located in downtown Abilene, Texas. Here we were guided through the amazing displays, artifacts and state-of-the-art technology theater presentations that detailed the history of the region from the pre-historic Native Americans through the 1800’s. Back to the MCM for the afternoon. The planned Veterans Roundtable session was cancelled to allow folks some recuperation time after all the amazing events of the past two days. Later in the afternoon, Vernon led a very helpful discussion on “How to Preserve Your Family’s Photographs and Documents”.

Friday evening, Vernon hosted the “Wethersfield Dinner” featuring delicious Texas BBQ and a program which included:

“God Bless the USA Tribute to the 416th Bomb Group” video.

“Outward Bound” - Vernon’s reciting a poem written by Muriel Bates Foose as she walked to work in a British defense factory each morning and watched the Allied bombers take off, form up and head east into harm’s way.

“A Wethersfield Journey” - Vernon’s presentation of his and his student’s June 2016 Wethersfield visit, highlighting the project planning, goals and results. The project succeeded in documenting and archiving, through photographs and videos, information on remaining 416th BG WWII structures, video interviews with residents preserving their memories of that critical period in history and assisting Ross Stewart in procuring a building to house the Wethersfield Heritage Center and developing all the exhibits of the 416th BG for the Heritage Center.

“Jim Dale Interview” - A video clip of Jim’s Wethersfield recollections from when he was a young child during WWII.

Saturday, October 6, 2018

Nine AM Saturday morning saw everyone attending the “Tribute to the Fallen and Folded Wings Memorial”, which began with a Prelude, the Star Spangled Banner, the Posting the Colors by the Dyess Air Force Color Guard and a moment of silence to remember all those who have gone before us. Vernon then talked about the Service and Sacrifice of the 416th Bomb Group during WWII and presented two films he produced especially for this Reunion through the Old Primero Historical Foundation: “Tribute to the Fallen” and “Folded Wings Memorial”.

“Tribute to the Fallen” is a moving memorial to all those who gave the Ultimate Sacrifice during World War II, and ended with a list of the 127 416th Bomb Group member Fatalities which occurred during their WWII Military Service.

“Folded Wings Memorial” remembers the 416th BG Veterans related to family members attending the 2018 Reunion.

Highlights of the 416th Bomb Group “Business Meeting”, held from ten until noon:

- The meeting began with beautiful video memorials of Hilaria Huff and Wayne Downing put together by Wayne Sayles.
- Kathe Rensner presented her research and findings of the past year. The committee she heads decided on a group name called: “Friends of the 416th Bomb Group”. Also, there will not be an initiative to create a formal Non-Profit organization at this time. There was consensus from the committee to state the mission of this group as: “Keeping memories alive by perpetuating the accomplishments and heritage of the 416th Bomb Group for present and future generations.”

This group will concentrate in the near term on assisting volunteer hosts or hosting future reunions when a volunteer can't be found. Kathe is designated the Reunion Advisor for the group. In the future the group will also expand to include outreach to family, friends and others encouraging their participation with the Friends of the 416th BG.

For 2019, it was suggested and approved by those present that New Orleans, LA be the host city for next year's reunion. David Andrews informed the group that his daughter, Stephanie Andrews, volunteered to host - THANKS Stephanie.

- Wayne Sayles described how the Archive manages the multitude of artifacts acquired and donated over the years.
- Rick Prucha summarized the website enhancements worked on over the past year.
- Steve Roy wrapped up the Business Meeting with a slide show of his and Pat's trip to England and Wethersfield. While there, he represented the 416th Bomb Group at a Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony in the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial. The 416th Bomb Group donated the wreath Steve placed at this year's ceremony.

The rest of the afternoon was spent relaxing, visiting and preparing for the wonderful Banquet.

416th BG Reunion Banquet Highlights:

• Following group photos with the 416th BG Veterans [veterans and Mickie already identified in the picture caption] and Honorary Veteran USAF Capt (Ret'd) Wayne Sayles and his wife, Doris, the Banquet began with the presentation of the colors by the Dyess Air Force Color Guard. Vernon Williams then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

• Doris Sayles presented the Missing Man Table Ceremony which honors the memory of those who have fallen or are missing who are no longer with us. David Andrews, III followed the ceremony by playing TAPS and Raymond Blasingame, Abilene Rotary Club gave the Invocation.

• Following dinner, Vernon provided introductions of our honored guests and presented 2018 George Bledsoe Awards to recipients Charles "Chuck" Hodge, a prominent oral historian, "For many years of work in creating a significant historical collection of WWII oral history interviews, and the establishment of a viable oral history program that continues to expand a growing and compelling oral history archive." and Richard "Rick" Prucha "For many years of work in building a significant historical collection of World War Two materials online related to the 416th (L) Bomb Group, and the maintenance of a web delivery system making those materials accessible to the public worldwide." Congratulations to both!

• "Swift and Severe", another wonderful video produced by Vernon through the Old Primero Historical Foundation specifically for this year's Reunion, pays tribute to both the WWII era 416th Bomb Group alongside the modern, active 7th Bomb Wing and their War on Terror. It was shown after the Bledsoe presentations.

• Another highlight of the evening was Colonel Brandon D. Parker's Keynote Address. Colonel Parker, Commander, 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess Air Force Base, began by expressing his sincere admiration, deep respect and honor to the 416th Bomb Group Veterans, both past and present. Colonel Parker continued with a discussion of the modern United States Air Force mission and responsibilities and his obvious pride in today's warriors, the dangers they face and their commitment to keeping us safe, secure and free.

• Vernon then presented Colonel Parker with an enlarged and framed photograph of Lt Muir, Lt Col Willetts, Lt Royalty, SSgt Rose before 'Reida Rae', A-26C A/C Serial # 43-22499 at Melun-Villaroche celebrating the conclusion of the 200th mission of the 416th Bomb Group on 8 Feb 45. He also received one of 416th Bomb Group Challenge Coins which were designed, commissioned and produced by Kathe and Gary Rensner in honor of the 70th year anniversary following the 416th Bomb Group inactivation for the 2015 416th BG Reunion. Colonel Parker presented Vernon with a 7th Bomb Wing Challenge Coin as his thank you for all of Vernon's efforts.

After the Banquet's activities, many returned to the Hospitality Room for more visiting.

Sunday, October 7, 2018

Sadly, Sunday was the last day of this memorable Reunion, although most folks were able to get in some last minute visiting during breakfast before heading home.



For questions, comments, donations or just the urge to reach out, contact Wayne or Doris by email at Archive@416th.com or telephone 417-499-9831 for Wayne and 417-499-1708 for Doris. The 416th Bomb Group Archive is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

A sincere THANK YOU goes out to everyone who graciously gave their time to make this such a special Reunion and for making all of us, especially our Veterans, feel so welcomed in Abilene:

The 416th Bomb Group Veterans, Family and Friends who continue to keep the memories alive.

Dr. Vernon Williams for all his hard work to organize this year's Reunion.

Beau Jory Vanderburg for freely sharing his vast historical knowledge.

The Dedicated Men and Women serving our Great Nation at Dyess AFB.

Folks from the 12th Armored Division WWII Memorial Museum and Frontier Texas!

The helpful members of Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The friendly management and staff of the MCM Elegante Suites.

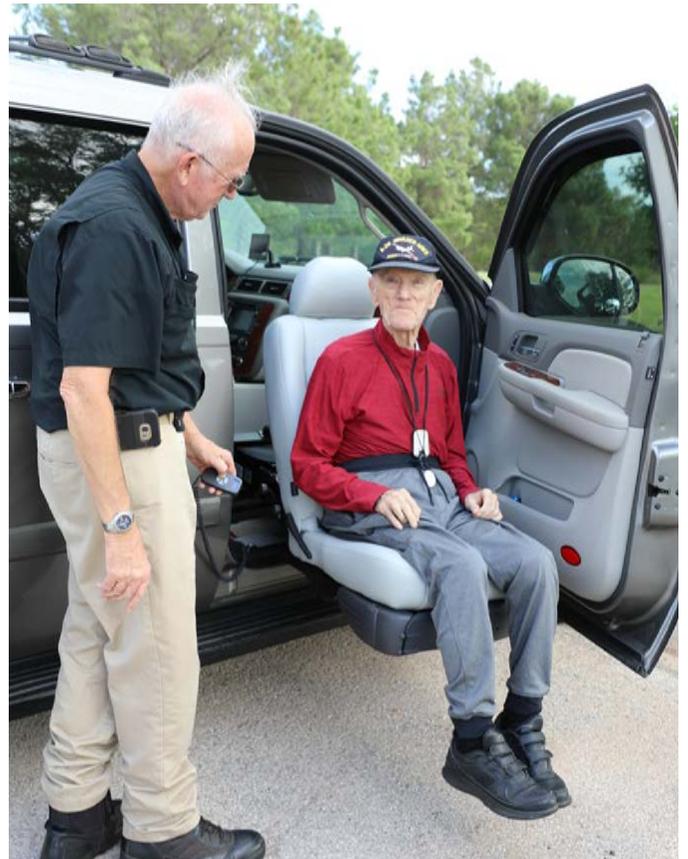
and those who stepped up and offered a willing, helping hand when the need arose.



Hosted by Dr. Vernon Williams—East Anglia Air War Project



Bob Kehres (670th Bomb Sq.)



David & Dave Andrews (671st Bomb Sq.)



Col. Parker & Mickie Weinert (669th Bomb Sq.)



Roland Dullnig & Family (668th Bomb Sq.)



Above: Captains Sean Bruce-Rennick and Anthony Bunker of the 28th Bomb Sq. at Dyess AFB, with Dave Andrews, Bob Kehres and Roland Dullnig, served as guides for the 416th reunion visit to the base in Abilene. Below: The 416th family gathers for a photo before an A-26 Invader on display. This aircraft type was flown by the 416th out of bases in France from the Fall of 1944 to the end of the war in Europe.





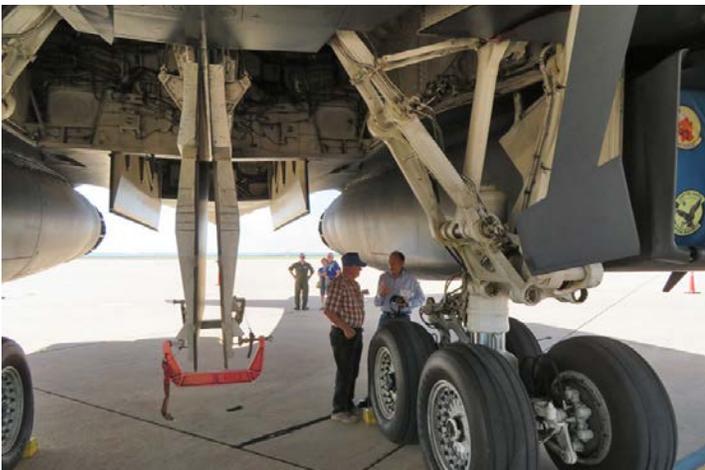
The “Bone” Up Close and Personal



C-130 Hercules



“Where did they put the key?” Jean Sittarich and Sue Berg - ready to taxi in the Hercules



Wayne and Sonny under the B1 bomb bay



One Captain to Another

Thank you to Col. Parker and all the impressive Officers and Airmen of the 7th Bomb Wing for the very special welcome they gave to our 416th Bomb Group family



**L-R: Wayne Sayles, Tom Rickels, Rick Prucha
Solving the Problems of the Universe**



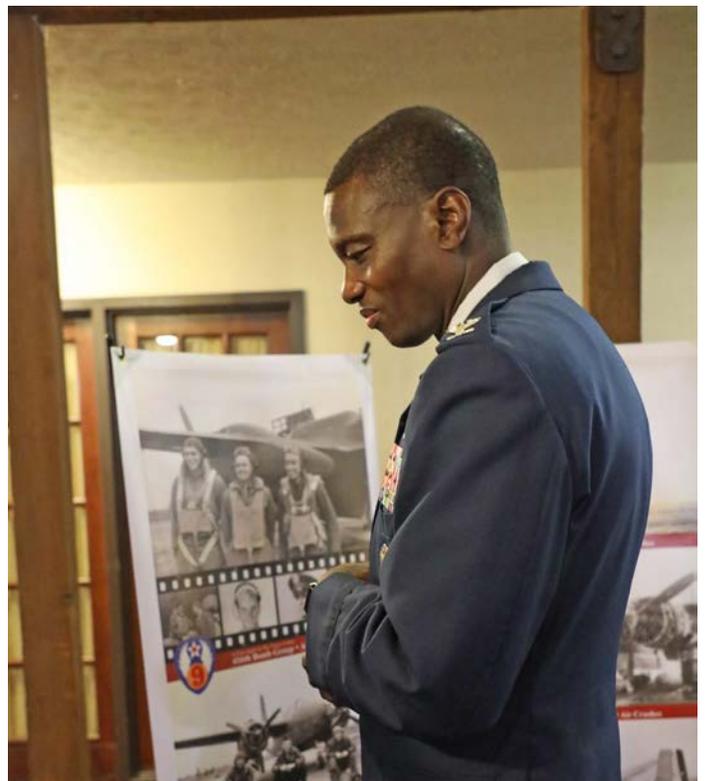
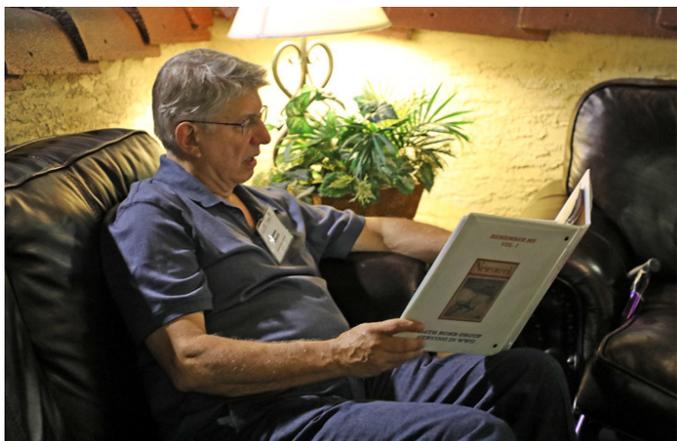
**L-R: Dr. Williams, Doris Sayles,
Dave Andrews, Steve Roy, Chuck Hodge**



**416th Archive Board Meeting
L-R: Wayne Sayles, Jean Sittarich, Doris Sayles
Tom Rickels, Rick Prucha**



L-R: Mary Adams, Sue Berg, Chris Adams



Jim Church (L) and Colonel Parker (R), both in a Moment of Reflection

Frontier Texas Museum



Beau Jory Vanderburg

12th Armored Division Museum





Missing Man Tribute



Dyess AFB Honor Guard at the Reunion Banquet



David Andrews - TAPS



MC- Dr. Vernon Williams



Roy and Arlene Hohn



Bledsoe Award - Chuck Hodge



Chris and Mary Adams



Mickie Weinert and Margaret Koenig



Bledsoe Award - Rick Prucha

Keeping in Touch

This section has been the primary purpose of the annual “Newsletter” since its inception more than 70 years ago. Throughout the history of 416th squadron reunions, and eventually the Group reunions, there has been a concerted effort to provide contact information to those who wish to stay in touch with their extended family. Today, those historic newsletters serve another important role as windows into the past for those, like most of us, who are later generations. Reading those newsletters from years gone by offers us insight that no other source can provide. So, thank you to those who have shared their thoughts, feelings and good wishes here—not just for the rest of us, but also for those who will come after us.

Chris and Mary Adams

Son of 1Lt James D. Adams (deceased 2005)
Pilot - 671st Bomb Squadron

“Thank you Vernon Williams for a wonderful time at this Year’s Abilene reunion! We really enjoyed visiting Abilene and Dyess Air Force Base, especially the uniformed men and women who helped us in our visit to the Flight Line and Simulator. It was a real treat getting to talk to them and hear about their life in today’s military. This nation is in good hands with those professionals! We also enjoyed meeting friends of yours, especially Chuck Hodge whom we got to visit

with quite a bit. The banquet was amazing! As always, we were happy to see Roland Dullnig, Bob Kehres (Happy 103rd Bob!), Dave Andrews and Carl Weinert’s wife, Mickie, who despite their physical infirmities are always so gracious, kind and interesting. Old friends were there as well and even though we only see them once a year we pick right up where we left off. It truly is like a family reunion! And, a sincere congratulations to Rick Prucha on his Bledsoe Award (and Chuck Hodge too!). Most deserved for his work on the web site over the past several years!

Speaking of reunions, our “Friends of the 416th Bomb Group” under the direction of Kathe Rensner has been hard at work planning and coordinating next year’s reunion in New Orleans with our hostess, Stephanie Andrews. We are staying downtown at the Holiday Inn which is centrally located near New Orleans’ major attractions, including the National WW2 Museum (your registration fee covers our visit there on Wednesday, October 9th, 2019). Thank you David and Stephanie Andrews for making that happen. We have left the option to pay for the reunion itself until a later date so as not to interfere with your holiday spending! If you would complete the registration form and send it in to Stephanie Andrews as soon as possible, that will give the committee an idea of how many we can expect. Final payment is due July 1, 2019. The hotel needs your reservation and credit card also by July 1, 2019 to ensure you get the discounted 416th BG rate. We hope to see all of you that are able, at the 2019 Reunion even (or especially) if you haven’t been in a while! See you in the Big Easy!”

1Lt Dave Andrews, son David and Family

Pilot - 671st Bomb Squadron

Dave weathered the round trip by auto from Georgia to Abilene and celebrated his 96th birthday on December 30th. The Andrews family is making good progress on prep for the reunion at New Orleans. The hotel is booked, but space is limited and early registration is important. A registration form is appended to this newsletter. Please contact the hotel for your reservation ASAP. Late registration could be more expensive. The Special Rate is in the name “Friends of the 416th Bomb Group”.

George and Rosalyn Barber

Relative of LtC Walter W. Farmer (KIA 6Aug44)
Group Operations Officer

“Thanks for the recent update and your work on behalf of the 416th.”

Bob and Puz Basnett

1Lt Robert J. Basnett
B/N - 671st Bomb Squadron
Comment submitted by Jan Recob, daughter, and contact via Michael Basnett, son, of Bob and Puz.

“Dad fell and broke his leg and things were up in the air when you emailed and I wanted to give you the latest information. He’s healed and pain free now but is more comfortable rolling around in a wheelchair. We moved Dad to the Mexico Missouri Veterans Home., 1 Veterans Drive, Mexico,MO 65265. It is an absolutely beautiful place and the staff is kind and very attentive. There are several men that he knows there and he is very happy. It’s a little farther for Mike to visit him but he is managing to go about 3 times a week. It’s just a better situation. Mother is still at Valley Park Assisted Living in Fulton. She is slowing down a bit but enjoys her life there. She gets to visit Dad about 1 time each week when Mike has a day off.”

Sue and Curt Berg

Daughter of SSgt Jack Sittarich (POW)
Gunner - 668th Bomb Squadron (deceased 2013)

“I would like to thank everyone for putting together another wonderful reunion! It’s always so nice to get together with friends who have become family. We miss seeing so many of you and always look forward to new friends coming to the next reunion. Wishing you good health, happiness and many precious memories.”

Stephen and Janet Bradford

Nephew of 1Lt Blair Bradford (KIA 20May44)
Pilot - 668th and 669th Bomb Squadron

Stephen stays in touch via email with the Archive and has shared several interesting items with us in the past year.

Taylor C. Brooks
Cadet, USMA West Point

Taylor graduates from West Point in May of this year and will be commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army. He remains in close contact with the 416th Archive and asks often about those he met at the reunion in Washington, DC.

James Church
Son of Lt. Charles Church (POW 6 Jun 44)
Pilot 669th Bomb Squadron

“What a great reunion! I would like to thank Vernon for the wonderful itinerary and the people who contributed their time and effort helping Vernon with the videos and other tasks. I really enjoyed the Dyess Airforce Base tour, the Frontier Texas and 12th Armored Division WWII Museum. The base commander’s speech at the banquet dinner was incredible. I am really looking forward to the reunion in New Orleans.”

Roland Dullnig and Family
Tsgt Roland Dullnig - Crew Chief
668th Bomb Squadron
Comment submitted by Carolyn Haisler, daughter of Roland Dullnig.

“Our family thoroughly enjoyed the Abilene 416th Reunion. Many thanks to Dr. Vernon Williams for all his hard work and dedication in conducting a very educational and informative reunion. We would also like to express appreciation to all the other individuals who helped in so many ways. Touring Dyess Air Force Base and the historical museums was a very memorable event. Thanks for making Dad, Roland Dullnig, feel so special and loved by his 416th family.”

Doug and Jane Enman
Doug is brother of 2Lt Roland Enman
B/N - 669th Bomb Squadron (KIA 1945)

“I’m so grateful for having been able to share with you my concerns about the material that I had accumulated up to that point when we first met. I am glad that those histories have been preserved. They are so important to our future generations so the history never is forgotten, especially in view of what is going on right now in this world.

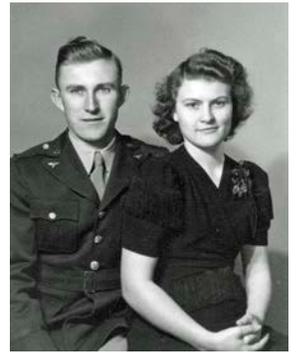
We are not able to travel anymore, Doug is in kidney failure and we don’t go far, it is just to difficult, but we think of you often and the other vets and families that still attend, and also those who cannot travel like us.

We wish all our best to everyone for a healthy and safe new year to come.”

Roy and Arlene Hohn

Arlene is the daughter of Cpt Meredith Joy Huff, Pilot, 669th Bomb Squadron (deceased 2006).

Arlene's mother, Hilaria, passed away July 7th of 2018. She was a lady of dignity and courage, loved by all and dedicated to her husband and family. Joy and Hilaria Huff were part of the reunion scene virtually from its beginning, attending 669th reunions before the 416th reunions were ever organized. She will be remembered with a smile by all who knew her.



Bob Kehres and Robert Laird

Cpt Robert J. Kehres, Engineering Officer, 670th Bomb Squadron

Bob Kehres turned 103 years old on December 19th and is still going strong and living at home with the help of Robert Laird, who accompanied him to the reunion, and his long time neighbors, Dale and Gail Robbins. Bob was the subject of a TV interview in Abilene and continues to attract the girls :-)



Robert Laird



Bobbie and Arnette were unable to join us in Abilene but send their regards to all.

Bobbie Odom Kinney

Wife of Cpt William L. Kinney (deceased 2006)
Materiel Officer - Group Headquarters

Don and Nancee Martin

son of Cpt Emile C. "Dutch" Martin (deceased 2007)
Pilot, 669th Bomb Sq.

"We are thinking back to many fond memories of past reunions we attended with dad, Captain E.C." Dutch" Martin in the 669th. Starting in 1974 at San Francisco and at about 15 other reunions since, we sadly saw the balance of veterans versus the other attendees lessen, but the spirit and camaraderie always was there. The "story telling", although we heard some of them several times



"Dutch" Martin

over the years, was something to remember also. What memories! Thank you Wayne and Doris and the others for the work and time you spend to keep this all together. We send our warmest regards to all.

Margaret McEvoy and Simon Young

Margaret is the niece of 1Lt James P. Kenny,
Pilot, 668th Bomb Squadron (KIA)

Margaret was unable to attend the reunion this year at Abilene due to a prior commitment. She sends her best wishes to all and is looking forward to New Orleans.

Cpt Joseph F. Meagher

Pilot, 668th Bomb Squadron

2018 was a hard year for many of us, and Joe was no exception. He could not join us in Abilene but is still at home and recovering from health issues. He sends his regards to all.

Peter Nadeau

Son of Cpl Alberie Nadeau, 671st Bomb Sq.

Pete and his brother Tom Nadeau joined us in Abilene and shared some welcome information about their father Alberie J. Nadeau who lives in western Maine. Alberie recently turned 95 years old. He worked in the flight line tower and is credited with saving all of the 416th Operations Section records during a fire in that area.



L-R, Pete and Tom Nadeau

Rick and Chris Prucha

Son of 1Lt. Lou Prucha, (deceased 1981)
Pilot, 668th Bomb Squadron

See Rick’s comments above.

As webmaster of the Archive web site, Rick has done a superlative job of improving and expanding the resources offered on that site. The value of his effort is reflected in an outstanding increase of traffic to the 416th.com pages by record numbers of daily visitors.

Norrie Rawdon

Norrie is the niece of Wayne Downing
Pilot, 668th and 670th Bomb Squadron

Norrie was unable to join us this year, but sends her best wishes to all of her friends in the 416th Family.

Tom Rickels

Tom is a nephew of 1Lt William E. Cramsie
Pilot - 671st Bomb Squadron (KIA 1944)

Tom and Ilene have purchased a home near their son Andrew and his family in Oklahoma. It was great seeing Tom in Abilene and we hope to see more of them in the years to come.

Kathe and Gary Rensner

Kathe is the niece of 1Lt Francis De Mand
Pilot - 671st Bomb Squadron (KIA 1944)

Kathe has taken a proactive role in helping to organize the Friends of the 416th Bomb Group. See the comments of Chris Adams above.

“As for comments, I’d like to add how grateful I was for the tremendous effort made by Vernon Williams to make this year’s reunion very special. It was a wonderful reunion and great to catch up with our special veterans, Bob Kehres, Roland Dullnig and Dave Andrews. Gary and I are looking forward to New Orleans in 2019!”



L-R, Kathe Rensner, Bob Kehres, Jim Roeder

Steve Roy and Pat Wymond

Steve is the son of Sgt Roger Roy (deceased 2010)
Aircraft Mechanic, 671st Bomb Squadron

“In May/June we visited Great Britain. We attended the RAF Duxford Air Show Festival and saw lots of WWII Warbirds in action including the only airworthy B-17 bomber (Sally B) in all of Europe. Duxford is also the home of the Imperial War Museum where there are 6 huge hangars and several other buildings containing many airplanes and artifacts. If you get a chance to see an airshow or the Imperial War Museum at Duxford you won't be disappointed!

We also toured RAF Wethersfield with Ross Stewart. Ross was a gracious host and showed us all around the airfield including driving down the main runway at 60 mph. Ross is the curator of the Wethersfield Airfield Museum which has an outstanding collection honoring our 416th Bomb Group veterans and other RAF units that served during WWII. There is also an extensive collection honoring the U. S. Air Force, 20th Tactical Fighter Wing which was stationed here during the Cold War.

On Memorial Day we spent the day at the Cambridge American Cemetery. It was an honor and privilege to place a wreath to honor our 416th Bomb Group veterans on behalf of the families and friends. The wreath was placed at the foot of the Tablets of the Missing where seven 416th Bomb Group veteran's names are inscribed. The Sally B flew over the cemetery in honor of all 3812 veterans interred and 5127 veterans inscribed on the Tablets of the Missing. On the final pass down the center of the cemetery the Sally B saluted the veterans by rocking her wings back and forth. It would be a great tribute to our 416th Bomb Group veterans if family and friends could attend the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 29, 2019.”

Wayne & Doris Sayles

Friends & Honorary Veteran of 416th Bomb Group

Doris: “Thank you Vernon for hosting the reunion. It was wonderful seeing everyone again. The places we visited at Dyess AFB and surrounding area in Abilene were exciting and wonderful. It's a true pleasure to see our young people take such pride in their duties as Air Force personnel. The museums in Abilene were so beautifully kept and informative. I enjoyed my time with all these people as well.”

Wayne: “It was fun returning to Abilene and driving down Sayles Boulevard after a 45-year interval. As always, the time evaporated amidst an impressive schedule and immersion with so many good friends. It was sad to think of all who are now missing, but also heartwarming to see new faces and rekindle relationships with the “younger” generations. Let's keep that fire burning.

Maria Sgamboti

Wife of Carl Sgamboti
Honorary Veteran of the 416th (deceased 2016)

Maria is basking in the comfort of home, friends and family these days as the healing process works its wonders. She is missed terribly by those who came to know and love her during the days that she and Carl were so intimately involved with the 416th. We look forward to a visit, and what better place than New Orleans?

Jean Sittarich

Daughter of SSgt Jack Sittarich (deceased 2013)
Gunner - 668th Bomb Squadron

“Another impressive reunion for the books... literally!! Thank you to Dr. Vernon for hosting and to all of those who work behind the scenes, especially Wayne and Doris Sayles! We couldn't be more blessed than to have you in our 416th family working tirelessly!! It's always great to see our old friends and to make new ones!! Looking forward to seeing you all in New Orleans!! God blessings be upon you all!!”

Mary Jane (Josie) Sittarich

Wife of SSgt Jack Sittarich (deceased 2013)
Gunner - 668th Bomb Squadron

“ I missed being in Abilene for the reunion this year and hope to make it to New Orleans if possible.”

Ross and Sally Stewart

Friends of the 416th Bomb Group
Director, Wethersfield Airfield Museum

Ross and Sally have been very warm and generous hosts for several 416th family members visiting Wethersfield. A tour with Ross is the only way to really see the base.

“Some good news to report from Wethersfield for the Newsletter. The MDP will remain at Wethersfield until at least 2025, so we have a further 7 years of stability to continue the museum. We had 170 visitors in 2017, so far in 2018 that has increased to 600 and still have Sunday the 25th November open day yet with at least 25 already booked. Col George T Morgan has been writing , he was the base commander shortly after setting the Air Speed record in his SR71, he plans to visit us in April 2019.”

Charles and Mary Watts

Daughter of Msgt Noel E. Clark (deceased 2008)
670th Bomb Squadron

“Sending all a wish for the jolliest of holidays. Mary is the daughter of MSgt Noel Clark, Maintenance Flight Chief for the 670th Bomb Sq.”

Mickie Weinert

Wife of 1Lt Carl Weinert (deceased 2013)
Pilot - 669th Bomb Squadron

“After missing the reunion last year it was truly wonderful to be with our 416th BG again. It never ceases to amaze me that this group is still “going strong” ! Thanks to the next generation of you willing souls!! The reunion was great; Dr. Vernon had a very interesting program—tour of the base and museums of Abilene and the West. I arrived by car with Margaret Koenig, she enjoys the bomb group family also. I manage to keep busy, still drive and just recently I met a woman who has 2 pianos in her house. We started playing 2 piano duets so keeping up with her gets me back to practicing (and keeps me off the streets!) with major help from one of our sons and his wife, Thanksgiving was at my house—any day is great when the family can be together. My love and Best Wishes to all of you.”

Carolyn and Tom Whitfield

Daughter of 1Lt William E. (Billy) Brewer
B/N, 671st Bomb Squadron

Billy and Marsha Brewer Family Update:

“Bobbie and Hank Hankins are still in Charlotte. Hank has retired and they are both enjoying their three grandchildren. Maggie has her driving permit and loving high school. Drayton played football in Jr. High although he was sidelined part of this season with a shoulder injury. He still never missed a practice or game. Hank is quite the baseball player and enjoying his first

year of Jr. High. Now the parents, Marsha and Drew Thrasher, besides being exhausted by keeping all of this activity in motion, are doing great and just finished up an awesome home renovation. Laura Hankins is doing great in her own little home with her awesome caregivers. She loves to visit her family but loves going back to “her house.”

Betty and Charlie Watson are now living in the Winston Salem area at Belews Creek. They are enjoying being close to the girls but truthfully I think the grandchildren were the big draw!

Marybeth and Chad Terry have three sweet children. Laura, the athlete is a busy bee. She swims, plays soccer and basketball. Her little sister Kate will be starting school in the fall and is always on the move. The little brother, Watson, is the climber of the crew and bears watching every second but he is so cute it is okay! Sarah and Brad Lynch are loving Kernersville and watching their handsome son in the sport of the season! Charlie Lynch is quite the athlete!

Billy, Jr. and his wife Jo Sanford are still working hard in Raleigh. That may change some now though because they have just built a vacation home in Hampstead, near Topsail Island, and I think that the water and bird watching will be hard to resist. Their daughter Charlotte is a CPA in Raleigh and doing great!

Tom and Carolyn Whitfield are doing good in Pink Hill. Thomas is still teaching and coaching at Beulaville as well as doing power washing and lawncare in the summer months. Michael and Rachel got married in May of 2017. We had a wonderful time, especially having all the family together. They made a beautiful couple!! But the best part of all that is that now I am going to be a grandmama!! Oh, Tom is going to be a granddaddy, too. In June we will have a grandson!! How exciting is that?!

Hope this finds all of the 416th family happy and well.

We love and miss you all and hope to see you again!”

A Message From 2018 Host Dr. Vernon Williams:

The 2018 Reunion for the 416th in Abilene has to be declared a resounding success, if you go by how much the people of Abilene and Dyess Air Force Base got out of it. It was a stunning experience for the people of West Texas to meet our veterans and also the families coming here representing other veterans who made such a difference all those years ago in World War II. And let me say up front, that it was such a pleasure for me to host the reunion in Abilene. In accepting our invitation to hold the reunion here in Abilene, you allowed many of the serving men and women of today's Air Force to make a connection to our 416th family--up close and personal. These youngsters of today's Air Force were awed by the encounters with everyone who came to the reunion, knowing clearly that each family was connected to a veteran who was killed in action or others who served at Wethersfield who flew the missions or supported them on the ground. There were many chance encounters during our reunion days, but I remember one moment on the tarmac as I watched Bob Kehres, a 103-year old Group Engineering Officer sitting in his wheel chair on the cargo deck of a C-130 aircraft trading experiences with a 26-year old female Engineering Officer for the 7th Bomb Wing. Two generations of air engineering warriors together, bridging their experiences from World War II and the War on Terror. It was something to see and hear.

It was a half week of experiences like that, moving and emotional interludes, that touched these young airmen of Dyess. And then there was the Pilot, Dave Andrews, being hoisted up into the back of a B-1B simulator and his hand being pulled up over the center console where he grasped the flight controls of the modern bomber—the smile on his face, the tears on the faces of those who watched—another moment, another bridge from the past to the present. And then there was Roland Dullnig the Crew Chief, sitting there in the Squadron bar listening to the stories of the young female sergeant speaking of her first combat experiences somewhere in the middle east, and other B-1B ground crew who spoke with a sense of awe, knowing that they were in the presence of those who paved the way for them. It is clear that this generation of young air warriors know their history, but more importantly, they honor the sacrifice of those who came before, they remember who they were, and what they did, when the world hung in the balance.

And then there was Colonel Brandon D. Parker's keynote address at our banquet, poignant and deliberate. His quiet and moving words reminded us that as Americans we have always stepped into the breach when people were suffering, when evil moved across the world. Colonel Parker gave us a sense of who we still are as a nation, urging us to be confident in this new generation of air warriors, that they are up to the task. It was one of the most thoughtful and moving moments in my memory. He gave us cause for optimism for our times, convincing each of us that although we have been under siege many times before, that this time, too, we shall prevail. What a conclusion to a week of celebration, commemoration, and discovery. I thank each of you who came and shared these moments with me.

Dr. Vernon L. Williams

Director, East Anglia Air War Project

**Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019.
We hope to see you all in the Fall at New Orleans.**

Internet addresses of interest to 416th family and friends:

<https://416tharchivestore.ecwid.com/> -- The 416th Archive Store

<http://www.416th.com/contents.html> -- 416th web site table of contents

<http://www.416th.com/links.html> -- List of online resources for WWII

[http://www.416th.com/missions/LoadingList.html](http://www.416th.com/missions>LoadingList.html) -- 416th Mission Loading List Search

http://www.416th.com/CachatPhotos/Cachat_416thBG_Photos.html -- 900+ 416th photos

<http://www.416th.com/Reunions/2018Reunion.html> -- 2018 reunion summary and photos

<http://www.416th.com/neam.html> -- The 416th Memorial Exhibit at New England Air Museum

<https://www.facebook.com/416th> -- 416th Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1473744302842355/> -- David Andrews 416th Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/56981237530/> -- Ross Stewart's Wethersfield Page

<http://www.angliaairwar.org/> -- Dr. Vernon Williams' East Anglia Air War Project website



RIP Wayne Edward Downing 11 Nov 1919 - 4 Aug 2018
Pilot 2911th, 668th and 670th Bomb Squadrons — 86 WWII Combat Missions, Distinguished Flying Cross, 17 Air Medals, 6 ETO Battle Stars and 2 Presidential Unit Citations

