



## Friends of the 416<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (L)

Website: [416<sup>th</sup>.com](http://416th.com) (Tab to "Friends of the 416<sup>th</sup> BG")

*"Keeping memories alive by perpetuating the accomplishments and heritage of the 416th Bomb Group for present and future generations"*

### 2020 Newsletter Announcement "Virtual Reunion"

October 5, 2020

Dear Friends of the 416th Bomb Group,

What an extraordinary year 2020 has been so far. Our routines have been interrupted, treasured family gatherings cancelled or scaled back to meet the current COVID-19 Pandemic guidelines. Sadly yet understandable, our annual Friends of the 416th Bomb Group Reunion was cancelled, too. Our reunions have been time honored events to celebrate the 416th veterans and their families while enjoying fellowship and making new friends with each other in the Hospitality Room, looking at scrapbooks and other 416th memorabilia, and taking in the sights of cities that perhaps we may have never visited before. Our business meetings included updates from the 416th Archives and the 416th website, guest speakers at our banquet dinners, enlightening videos, and touching memorials. As we departed for our homes, somehow we just knew that we would begin the exciting countdown to the next year's reunion.

As publishers of the annual newsletter, we believe this year should not be any different, even though we did not have the annual reunion. Remarkable memories and stories still can be told. Pictures and personal updates still can be shared. Upcoming events along with updates from the 416th Archives and the 416th website still can be addressed in the 2020 Newsletter. We are excited about "hosting a virtual reunion" using the Newsletter as the "hospitality room" for gathering stories, pictures and updates, and we need your help!

Please send your stories, pictures and updates that you wish to share with the 416th Family in the newsletter. Below are some examples for you to consider sending to us:

- The Friends of the 416th Bomb Group **includes all folks** whether or not a veteran's family and friends. We have many, including Wayne and Doris Sayles of the 416th Archive, who did not have a veteran connected with the 416th, yet contributed tremendously to the 416th website and the Archive. Please consider sending us stories of how you learned about the 416th Bomb Group. What captivated your interest? Had you served in the US Air Force or other military branches? Are you a World War II history buff?
- Have you been researching your veteran's military history? Consider sending us interesting facts that you had discovered i.e. your veteran's attendance at previous

reunions (include pictures, if you can), letters to and from your veteran while he served with the 416th, pictures of your veteran during training and while based in England and France, etc.

- Consider sending stories of how your veteran returned from his last base in France at the end of the war. Did your family have any special celebrations or stories of your veteran's return?
- If you have been to one of our annual reunions, what do you remember about fellowship with others? Was there a particular presentation that you remember vividly? Kathe remembers the Tribute to the Fallen presentation by Professor Vernon Williams at the 2018 reunion in Abilene, Texas. She still recalls seeing the photos of her uncle, Francis De Mand, who was KIA September 29, 1944 as well as the remaining 416th veterans as they also made the ultimate sacrifice. Perhaps you remember looking at scrapbooks and pictures and listening to stories and updates from others.
- Please consider sharing your story while living in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Were there any new hobbies or special interests you had started? We (Gary and Kathe) rebuilt our patios to welcome and look through the binoculars the many birds, especially hummingbirds, that visited our bird baths throughout the year.

Please use this form to update our records, add personal updates and stories.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Veteran, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran's  
Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive the newsletter via email (preferred) as a PDF attachment?  
Circle: Yes or No

Do you wish to receive the newsletter via US Post?      Circle: Yes or No

Please write your stories, comments and updates you wish to share in the 2020 Newsletter.  
Use the back of this form, too.

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