



"Jungle" Air Force Newsletter

DECEMBER 2006

News and Information for Members of the 13th Air Force Veteran's Association

In This Issue

Wonderful
Dedication and
Reunion

Many Color
Pictures

AFVA Reunion
History

Bob O'Brien's
Notes

The Air Force
Memorial

AFVA Reunion
Busines Meeting
Minutes Summary

Ray Perkins and
Information about
Tulsa Reunion



The 13th "Jungle" Air Force Veterans Association Memorial

Wonderful Dedication and Reunion!!

Thanks to the efforts of so many of our members, the 13th Air Force Veterans' Association Reunion held in Dayton, Ohio, on October 12-14, 2006 was wonderful! Attendance was up! Over 160 persons were registered, with 60 World War II veterans as well as other veterans. The Holiday Inn, thanks to careful planning, worked out very well, and its location near the incredible United States Air Force Museum was convenient.

We must particularly thank Phil and

Betty Dyer and Dick and Nora Phelps. Bob O'Brien, Eric Russ, Tom Bonney, Len Daniels, Pam Johnson, and others so important in carrying out the plans. Thanks, too, to those who volunteered "on the spot" to help with registration, bus loading, and other important tasks. The cups and memorials caps with the 13th Air Force and American Flag pins were a hit. (We do have a few cups and caps left if others want them. Drop Cliff Johnson a note if you want one.)

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

The Friday morning memorial dedication was exceptional. Veterans, friends, and guests occupied 150 chairs in clear but somewhat chilly weather. Photos were taken and a DVD will be made available for purchase later in this newsletter. The Friday banquet "Under the Wings" at the Air Force Museum was impressive and included two vocalists and their pianist from Cedarville University who sang individually and as a duet presenting 40's songs. They also did an incredible rendition of the 13th Air Force song. The food provided by the Officer's Club was perfect.

The Saturday business meeting was relatively brief with the important questions of how to increase



Dick Phelps giving history of the 13th Air Force Memorial Program.



President cliff Johnson presenting the Memorial to Major General Ray Moorman.

our numbers. The officers for 2006-2007 are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

The forty women who attended the Ladies Luncheon enjoyed a delightful meal and a gripping program entitled "For Such a Time as This..." focusing on the inspirational stories of Queen Esther and Lisa Beamer.

It was presented by Jillian Anderson, a graduate student at Miami University (Ohio) and coach of their Speech Team.

The Saturday evening meal was in the form of a hot dog and hamburger picnic and had a red, white, and blue patriotic motif. Glenn Miller tunes played by the Cedarville University Jazz Band under the direction of Mr. Michael DiCuirci.

We look forward to going to Tulsa, Oklahoma, the location for the 2007 reunion, on November 7-10, 2007, appropriately just preceding Veterans Day. Ray Perkins from Tulsa is the program chairman.

The Beginning of the 13th “Jungle” Air Force Veterans Association

Early in 1990 a 13th Air Force veteran, Joe Cambron from Tuscaloosa, AL, was terminally ill and wanted to see some of his 13th Jungle Air Force friends that he had served with in the South Pacific. He arranged to meet in Dayton, OH, on the 13th and 14th of October 1990. Unfortunately, Joe passed away before the group met in Dayton at the Holiday Inn North.



General Moorman accepting the memorial and addressing the Veterans at the October 13, 2006, dedication ceremony.

The following veterans attended:

Lee Bloomberg Dan Higgins
Phil Dyer Art Hotler
Bob Fritts Lee Koppen
Carl McDonough Max Tessier

Don Paul
Lee Railsback
Joe Ross

Mack Williams
Stan Zombek
Howard Hamilton

And that was how the 13th Jungle Air Force Veterans Association was started!!



Secretary Len Daniels and President Cliff Johnson with General Moorman.



Mark Spencer, Beth Porter, and pianist Charles Clevenger presenting our era music!!





Our 13th Air Force Veterans and other veterans at the 13th Air Force Memorial Dedication in Dayton, OH, on Friday, October 13, 2006

THE 13TH AFVA AND THE 419TH ... NOTES FROM BOB O'BRIEN

For my years, my views of the war were those experiences I shared with my buddies from the 419th Night Fighter Squadron. I learned about the other flying units by reading books about WWII.

Several years ago our 419th decided to join with the 13th AF because our numbers were declining to the point it was difficult to make the arrangements to meet. Now I am really glad we did. At first we felt a bit lost, but we got to know the 13th people and then began to feel a part of the association. Ralph Dunavant also helped get us together.

This year in Dayton was one of the best times we have had. I continued to meet with others from bomber and fighter groups, and, of course, we certainly exchanged many stories. I heard of survival after ditching, surviving crashes, and in the case of one vet...three crashes!! I was spell-bound by some of the stories and almost moved to tears with other accounts. These modest men told of

heroic deeds as if these were casual events in their lives.

We also talked about some of the difficulties we WWII vets encounter. We are truly the "Over the Hill Gang!" Medically, we are a doctor's dreams come true. I've heard about diseases I didn't know existed. I also have learned of miracles of healing.

So now I've found out so much about the parts others have played and can see how it fits together toward winning the War.

I am really looking forward to Tulsa and hoping my present friends and new ones will be there, too. In that way we can continue to build our friendships in these latter years of our lives. May God keep us safe and ready to travel in November 2007 because there are many more stories to be told and I want to hear them all.

The Wonderful New Air Force Memorial ...Also Dedicated On October 13th 2006!!!

Two of the fascinating events of this past October are the dedication of the gleaming new Air Force Memorial in Washington, DC, and the dedication of the 13th Air Force Memorial at the United States Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH on the very same day...Friday, the 13th of October 2006.

We of the 13th AFVA commend those who worked so diligently to achieve the Air Force Memorial, and we veterans who wore the uniforms of World War II certainly would have liked to attend the incredible celebration at DC, but we definitely needed to be at the dedication of our 13th Air Force Memorial which in an important, but somewhat smaller way, was a result of the efforts of our own members and friends.

There ceremony in Washington was attended by President George W. Bush, military leaders, many dignitaries, and thousands of others. The Air Force Magazine 2006 November quoted President Bush, "We commemorate today the courage of the men and women who work the Air Force Blue. We remember those who gave their lives for their fellow Americans. We mourn their loss, we pray for their families and we consecrate their legacy here today."

The magazine also noted, "The Air Force Band performed several pieces while a video was shown with clips from pilots climbing into World War II bombers to modern-day airmen working in the sands of Iraq. Several aircraft ranging from World War I bi-planes to today's stealth bombers and



fighters flew over the crowd and memorial in chronological order, providing visual evidence of the evolution of military flight."

The ceremony ended with a demonstration from the Thunderbirds, who flew past the crowd before doing the bomb-burst formation, which inspired the design of the three-spires of the memorial.

13th AFVA 2006 Reunion Business Meeting Summary

President Cliff Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Tom Bonney acted as secretary due to the unavoidable absence of Secretary Len Daniels due to his daughter's death. Following a recap of the 2005 minutes, both this and the treasurer's report were approved by the members.

Ray Perkins, 2007 Reunion Chairman, presented highlights of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, location including an excellent hotel, places to visit, and service by the major airlines. He noted that the Commemorative Air Force Show occurs during the same weekend as the 13th AFVA reunion. The members confirmed that Tulsa would be the location November 7-10,



Attendees at the Business Meeting

Attendance is almost always a concern, and some thought was given to considering finding other groups interested in joining with the 13th. It was pointed out that other groups joining with the 13th had found friendship and encouragement, and yet were still able to have meetings with their own group and keep that aspect of their identity.

The membership approved the slate of officers listed on the back page of this December 2006 newsletter, including "Sully" Sullivan as president-elect due to the illness to B.C. Pipes. B.C. has indicated that he is willing to serve as president-elect for 2008. An updated directory is being prepared, and efforts are being made to get the 13th AFVA website re-activated. If you have any information on this, please contact Cliff Johnson. The meeting was then adjourned.



Some of the veterans gathered in the hospitality room for some story sharing time and to renew friendships.

2007. Ray also pointed out that the weather in Tulsa at that time should be favorable.

After Ray's presentation, Dick Phelps summarized the many planning preparations necessary for the Dayton reunion. Later in the meeting President Cliff asked members to comment on the Dayton reunion. They indicated that the dinner at the Air Force Museum, the music, the incredible memorial dedication service, the camaraderie plus Dick Phelps and the other planners were all on the plus side. Some concern was expressed regarding the name tag style and the need for larger letters for participants' names. Members also mentioned that they wished there had been a few more planned activities.



Ladies enjoying the program presented by Jillian Anderson at the Ladies Luncheon

START PLANNING NOW...

**2007 13TH AFVA REUNION
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
November 7-10, 2007**

OKLAHOMA: The state's name comes from the Choctaw words okla meaning people and homma meaning red, literally meaning "red people."

TULSA: is an Indian word that means "town" and it is the second-largest city in the state of and is considered the cultural and arts center of Oklahoma, boasting two world-renowned art

museums, full-time professional opera and ballet companies, and a notable concentration of art deco architecture. Its population is just under 400,000 and it has wide four lane streets around each square mile. All streets east of Main are named after towns or areas east of Main, and all streets west of Main are named after towns or areas west of Main.

**An Invitation from Ray Perkins
2007 13th AFVA Reunion Chairman**

Our reunion headquarters will be the Holiday Inn Select located at Interstate 44 and Yale. This is a newly-renovated hotel with 313 attractively furnished rooms. The room cost will be \$66/night for a single or Double/Double with a free full breakfast included as well as free airport transportation. There are many good restaurants close by and two in walking distance from the hotel

(Applebees and Outback Steakhouse). We will have menus from the various nearby restaurants available for you to review at the hotel.

Southroads and Promenade shopping centers are located less than a mile north of the hotel. LaFortune Park is four blocks south with golf, tennis and walking facilities. St. Francis Hospital is 1-1/2 mile south of the hotel. The Tulsa Airport is convenient and regularly served by the major airlines. The Commemorative Air Force wants us to attend their Veterans Day celebrations that will be going on Saturday and Sunday. This includes an antique air show, a Big Band Hangar Dance, and a Veterans Day Parade for any who might want to stay through Sunday.

Other places that may be visited include Ford Glass, Blue Bell Ice Cream, Gilcrease Museum, Philbrook Museum, and several others. Details will be forthcoming in future newsletters, but make sure to mark the dates on your calendar and plan to join us November 7-10, 2007 in Tulsa, OK!!





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Executive Committee: President, Presidents - Elect
 2007 and 2008, Past President, Treasurer,
 Recording Secretary, Reunion Chairman,
 Membership Manager, Chaplain, and Editor

Each officer's duties and responsibilities are specifically described in the
 By-Laws, printed in the Summer 2002 Edition of the Newsletter.

Questions or information may be sent to any of the above.

