



# "Jungle" Air Force Newsletter

News and Information for Members of the 13th Air Force Veterans Association

JUNE 2007

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## Looking Forward to Tulsa in November!!!

Tulsa, Oklahoma, is THE PLACE for 13th AFVA members and their friends this coming November. Great doings begin with arrivals and an evening reception on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and continue through the evening of Saturday, November 10, 2007.

Ray Perkins is our host, lives in the Greater Tulsa Area, and really knows all the ins and outs of that area. He has worked out plans for a very comfortable and modern hotel, the Holiday Inn Select, which is right in the middle of restaurants and near malls. The 13th AFVA Board met in April with Ray and are confident that the members are going to have a great reunion.

This newsletter includes the Reunion Program and also includes the official registration form for those who like to care for registration sooner than later. Hotel information is also in this newsletter. All the major airlines have service to Tulsa.

For those driving, the interstates, toll ways, and major thoroughfares are convenient and not overly crowded. However, we might want to avoid commuter going home times.

Usually 13th AFVA reunions are held earlier in the year, often October. However, since there are so many possibilities for unique activities, it looks like a good situation to meet this November. Although our reunion concludes November 10, November 11 is Veterans Day and folks are thinking about veterans and their contributions. Many local events are often in the works preceding the official day.

We continue making certain that full-service buses will be available to take good care of our members who are not quite as mobile as they used to be. Several of the events will use buses.

*continued on next page*



*Continued from page 1 – Good News about Phil*

We also have good news in that Phil Dyer is recovering and according to the last word, he and Betty may be able to attend the Tulsa Reunion. We have missed them

and their many helpful contributions to the 13th AFVA. Your questions are sincerely welcomed. Feel free to call any of the officers listed on the back of this newsletter.

## 2007 13th AFVA Tulsa Reunion Events

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

**7 am to 9 pm** – Registration in the Hotel Lobby  
Tulsa Chamber of Commerce Personnel Assisting

**4 pm to 5:30 pm** – Meeting of the 2007 Board  
in the Board Room

**7 pm to 10 pm** – Get Acquainted Party –  
Hors d'oeuvres, in Hospitality Room

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

**9 am** – Bus to Freedom Elem. School, lunch there.

**1 pm** – Bus to Will Rogers Museum, Claremore, OK  
(Davis Gun Museum Available)

**5 pm** – Return to Hotel and relaxing. On our own  
for supper.

**7 pm** – REMARKABLE SEVENTY-SEVEN YEAR  
OLD DANCERS PROGRAM!

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

**9 am to 10 am** – Memorial Service in Hotel  
Meeting Room.

**10 am to 11:30 am** – Business Meeting, Hotel  
Meeting Room

**12 Noon to 1:30 pm** – Ladies Luncheon - Men  
on their own for lunch. (12 Noon - Meeting of the  
2008 Board in the Board Room.)

**2:30 pm** – Bus Tour of Tulsa

**6 pm** – Reunion Banquet - Special Speaker,  
awards, Kitchen Katz Band

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

**9:30 am - 3 pm** – Bus to the Commemorative  
(Confederate) Air Force for flight exhibition and  
viewing of restored aircraft at the Tulsa Technology  
Center, Jones-Riverside Airport in Jenks OK, as part  
of the "Celebrate Freedom 2007" festivities. Lunch  
on your own there.

**3 pm to 4:30 pm** – at hotel relaxing

**4:30 pm - 10 pm** – Dinner and Hangar Dance at  
"Celebrate Freedom 2007". We will be recognized  
at the 5:30 pm pre-show that has live entertainment  
leading up to the dance at 7 pm.

### FREEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EVENT

Thursday's program includes a very special event and a great experience, celebrating Veteran's Day with the children of the Freedom Elementary School in the Tulsa area. The children of kindergarten through the 5th grade will serenade us with patriotic songs. Then, we get to join them in the school cafeteria for lunch. We plan to give 13th Air Force patches to all the children. Be ready with answers to the questions that the children might be asking us.

The caption on the cover of the program for Freedom Day at the school states, "To be a veteran one must know and determine one's price for freedom." What a privilege to share the tribute with the children and their teachers. It was very interesting to learn that the school principal's father was shot down over the Philippines in 1945. He was an engineer-gunner on a B-25.

### THE REUNION HOTEL THE HOLIDAY INN SELECT

We encourage you to begin thinking about hotel reservations. The reunion hotel chosen for 2007, the Holiday Inn Select, is convenient, comfortable, and is ideal for our reunion activities. Make your reunion reservations with the Holiday Inn Select Hotel, Tulsa, Oklahoma. The excellent quoted rate per night is \$68.00 per room. The hotel address is 5000 Skelly Drive, Tulsa, Ok.

Hotel telephone numbers are 800-836-9635 and 918-622-7000. The hotel is just off I-44 and is close to several restaurants and malls which are within easy driving distance.

### THE HOSPITALITY ROOM

Each reunion has featured a special room where members, spouses and guests can reminisce and tell stories of years past. So for the 2007 Reunion, don't forget to take advantage of this opportunity. The room will be open practically all the time from Wednesday through Saturday. Members often bring memorabilia, and are encouraged to do so. Due to Saturday activities away from the hotel be sure to pick up any memorabilia before you leave for home. We will close the room Saturday evening.

Please Note: Some slight adjustments in this schedule may be necessary as we get closer to the events.





*Veterans and guests enjoying the Banquet at the 2006 Dayton Reunion.*

### **SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCOVERING THE TULSA AREA**

Our readers noticed that we will be taking buses to the Freedom Elementary School. Other unique events will also include bus transportation. For example, the Will Rogers Museum, a comfortable thirty minute ride from the hotel, is a most interesting presentation of the life of one of America's most loved humorists. The Davis Gun Museum is a nearby possibility. A bus tour of Tulsa will be available. Tulsa is a remarkable city, well laid out, with many things to see and enjoy, for example; the Praying Hands Sculpture near Oral Roberts University, the River Walk, and the unique Blue Bell Creameries. The Saturday afternoon activities will include bus transportation to and from the Jenks Airport Commemorative Air Force events.

### **THE THURSDAY EVENING INCREDIBLE DANCING EXHIBITION**

Members, spouses and guests will really enjoy this group as they perform in one of our hotel's halls. Remember to go out to eat at one of the neighboring restaurants before this program begins at 7:00 pm in the hotel. Specific location will be provided when you check in.

### **THE MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Our 13th AFVA reunions feature an opportunity to reflect and remember our members both past and present. This service at 9:00 a.m. Friday will be led by Dr. John M Nelson, Ray Perkins' pastor. The memorial service is also an opportunity to have a sharing time of memories of the impact of people on our lives.

### **TAKING CARE OF 13TH AFVA BUSINESS**

Following the memorial service members are asked to remain for our annual business session at 10 am. Spouses and guests may remain if they wish. Decisions will be announced and made regarding future reunions and election of officers. The all-important treasurer's report will also be presented. It's important to list what went well at the Tulsa Reunion as well as making suggestions for improvements at future reunions. The long-term future of the 13th AFVA is another matter needing some initial discussion.

## The Ladies' Luncheon



*Ladies Luncheon at the Dayton Reunion 2006*

This Friday event at noon has always been a delightful one. We are working on selecting this year's speaker, and you can be assured a great program will be provided.

As we did at last year's luncheon, we will take time to get acquainted with one another and introduce those who are "first-timers." Plan to come for a great time of food and fellowship.

## The Reunion Banquet

This Friday spectacular event beginning at 6:00 p.m. has all the promise of a wonderful evening. Preliminary arrangements have been made for a very special speaker. Not only that, the Kitchen Katz Band will perform its unique and well-accepted style of music. Awards will be presented. Remember when you register to choose between ROLLED PORK or SALMON.



Friends gathering at the Dayton Reunion Hospitality Room!

## Saturday with The Commemorative Air Force

This day is going to be filled with activities that are part of the "Celebrate Freedom 2007" festivities put together by the Tulsa Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force as their annual fundraiser. We will have buses leaving at 9:30 am to take us to the Tulsa Technology Center at the Jones-Riverside Airport in Jenks, OK, for the morning and early afternoon activities.

These activities will include aircraft flyovers and rare military aircraft displays from WW I, WW II, and a Vietnam era helicopter called "Ugly Angel". We have been told that there will be a PT-19 (being re-built), an AT-6 a T-28, C-47, L-5, L-19, B-25, BT-13, P-51, and a Stearman. Included are military vehicles and re-enactors that dress up in period uniforms. Food will be available for you to purchase for lunch on your own. We'll come back to the hotel by 3 pm, and then buses will transport us back to the



Vultee BT-13  
Valiant Basic Trainer  
© 2006 The Commemorative  
Air Force

festivities (leaving at 4:30 pm) for the Dinner and Big Band Hangar Dance that starts at 5 pm with dinner (1940s Style Chicken Dinner). There will be a pre-show at 5:30 pm at which **we will be honored**, and then other live entertainment leading up to the dance that begins at 7 pm. Current plans are for the buses to return to the hotel at 10 pm. The cost of this evening of food and fun is \$25 per person. This is a non-alcohol, non-smoking event in keeping with the policies of both the Tulsa Technology Center and the Tulsa Squadron of the CAF. Additionally, the facility is fully handicapped accessible.

If you would like to see more information for yourself, see their website at: <http://www.caftulsa.org/Events.htm> and you will see that the 13th Jungle Air Force is mentioned! It should be an exciting day for all of us!

**13TH "JUNGLE" AIR FORCE VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

**2007 Reunion Registration Form**

**Tulsa, OK -- November 7 to 10, 2007**

**MEMBER**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (if attending): \_\_\_\_\_ 13th AF WWII Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Nicknames for Badges: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Day & Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Day & Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST(S) Number \_\_\_\_\_ (Use back of Form if additional space is needed)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname for Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACTIVITY and REGISTRATION FEES**

Registration Fee (All Attendees) ..... \$25.00 per person x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom Elem School w/lunch (Thurs) .....\$10.00 per person x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Will Rogers Museum (Thurs afternoon).....\$10.00 per person x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Also J.M.Davis Arms & Historical Museum)

Ladies Luncheon (Friday).....\$15.00 per person x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Tour of Tulsa (Friday afternoon).....\$10.00 per person x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion Banquet (Friday evening).....\$25.00 per person x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Choose meat preference for meal(s): Rolled pork # \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon # \_\_\_\_\_

Commemorative AF Dinner & Dance (Saturday)..\$25.00 per person x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Make check payable to: 13th AFVA Reunion Fund

Mail this form & check to: Bob O'Brien 16 Maplewood Dr. Swannanoa, NC 28778

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2007**



**- REMEMBER -**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE TULSA REUNION IS  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2007**



Make check payable to: 13th AFVA Reunion Fund

Mail this form & check to: Bob O'Brien • 16 Maplewood Dr. • Swannanoa, NC 28778

**- MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION -**

The expiration date of your membership is on your address label. Send all dues checks to the address below. Annual Membership dues: \$25 for regular as well as Associate Memberships.

**Robert O'Brien - 13th AFVA  
16 Maplewood Drive  
Swannanoa, NC 28778**

## Musings From Our Members...

*E-mail from Rudy Rudin via Bob O'Brien:*

Hi Bob. You asked me to tell you about my recent trip which relates to being stationed on a beautiful island called "Efate" during WWII. It was the capital of Vanuatu which was in the New Hebrides. The book and movie, *Tales of South Pacific*, was made about this island. The author was James Michener.

While stationed there I worked as a follow me jeep driver parking airplanes on the strip. The U.S. Government had leased that land from the Bladamire Family who had two beautiful daughters that I had the privilege of meeting.

For years I had longed to return to Efate. "I took the bull by the horns" and on May 14th, 2006, with my son, Allan, flew to Australia and then to Efate. While there we visited their public library and culture center and also met the chiefs of the villages of Vanuatu. Chief Hendon Kalasakau directed me to the Bladamire Family where I once again met one of the daughters, Margarete Collodure. The other daughter had passed away last year.

Margarete hosted a dinner in my honor including important people, and we had an interesting evening going down memory lane. The next day I was interviewed by Mr. Bob Makin, editor of the Vanuatu Independent, which later was printed with a large photo of Margarete and myself on the second page. I had visited many villages and without exception they thanked me for saving their island from the Japanese. All this was certainly a dream come true. I plan to return to Efate this April.

*Excerpts of an e-mail from Jerry Bernard, Ulladulla, NSW, Australia:*

Dear Cliff: First things first. Your package of memorabilia from the Dayton Reunion arrived today. You can only guess my appreciation to have someone take the time to acknowledge my existence. Thank you.

Like many others, I am high up in my 80's but am holding my own, health-wise. I have managed to beat some nasty things in my time, but I have macular degeneration for which there is no cure and unfortunately my eyes continue to deteriorate. My email address is [junto@tpg.com.au](mailto:junto@tpg.com.au)

I have dearly wanted to attend one of the reunions, but I don't see myself returning to the States anytime soon. My Australian wife has a great family here and in New Zealand. In fact, she has two great grandchildren and that makes me "Great Grandfather Jerry."

Mass mailing caused 13th AFVA Newsletters to not arrive, so I never got copies. Someone (usually Preston Hill) mailed them individually. I trust someone will remember this poor sole in Australia next time.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The editor will make every effort to see that Jerry gets the newsletters!) Now that I know where (to send the membership renewal), my dues will be in the mail this week. Again, many thanks! Cheers! Jerry Bernhard

*Excerpts of a letter from Roy and Joyce Davenport, Portland, OR:*

The pictures you sent arrived in good shape and will work really fine for the album I have put together. I have worked on this album since I was discharged in 1945, using the pictures I brought home from the South and Southwest Pacific. It fills one three-inch notebook and part of a two inch. I kept a diary while I was in the Service starting on October 16, 1941 up until I returned to the USA on January 1st 1945.

Spent 33 months overseas from Hawaii to Morotai with the 394th Bomb Squadron. I was assigned to the 4th Reconnaissance Squadron 7th AAF then to the 394th about 10 days later. Into the 13th AAF when it was activated January 13th 1943. I spent my time as an Airplane mechanic and power turret specialist. This is why I wanted, first to be at the reunion, then to get pictures of this Monument for the album. Thank you for sending these pictures. I'll be forever grateful for your good deed.

Our trip to Tinker Air Base, seeing the details of the B2, convinced me of many of my questions about how far we have advanced. I don't believe the farm boy barb wire mechanic skills of the greater generation would work (now) as it did for us.

Those that flew had more to think about besides the enemy, our best never seemed enough but we did our best and always worried until we saw the plane safe on the ground. I was lucky to never have one not come in even though full of holes.

Sincerely yours, Roy & Joyce



**The 13th Air Force Veteran's Association**

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Cedarville, OH 45314

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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.**

