



"Jungle" Air Force Newsletter

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

SEPTEMBER 2007

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Plans are nearly complete for making the 13th AFVA reunion in Tulsa, Oklahoma, November 7- 10, one of our best ever. We thank those who have worked so hard for over a year on this event. Ray Perkins, as well as all of the members of the 13th AFVA executive board, are to be commended for getting the many details in order. It is exciting to anticipate this time together and to be able to do it in the same year the United States Air Force celebrates the 60th anniversary of its founding in 1947!

The board is confident that our members are going to be very comfortable in the Holiday Inn Select in Tulsa. It is convenient, friendly, and attractive. I - 44 is right there making connections to everywhere easy, indeed!

As you likely have noticed, the time of this year's reunion in November is a bit later than most of our recent reunions. We decided this was a good move because many of the events in which we will be involved in Tulsa are part of Veteran's Day (November 11) celebrations. Since the weather in Tulsa that time of year is typically mild with low humidity, we are excited to be a part of these activities. While the events surrounding our reunions are very important, the key matter is the fellowship we enjoy plus getting to renew old and new friendships. We do miss each other, but since our families and friends back home

need us, it's harder to keep in contact with our 13th AFVA friends of previous years. That's why so many look forward with great anticipation to these annual reunion gatherings.



Major General Loren Reno

We are pleased that we are now able to announce our Friday Evening Banquet speaker, a remarkable United States Air Force officer of incredible leadership experience. Our speaker will be Major General Loren Reno, Commander, Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, Tinker Air Force Base. Prior to this assignment at Tinker, Major General Reno served as Vice Director, Defense Logistics Agency, at Fort Belvoir, VA. That agency is responsible for providing the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and other federal agencies with a variety of logistics, acquisition, and technical services in peace and in war. That worldwide mission involved approximately 21,000 civilian and military personnel.

(continued on next page)

Location of our 2008 Reunion?

Attention fellow Veterans – would you please assist me in locating a wonderful city to host our next reunion. A 100% response would be deeply appreciated. Please state your reason for choosing this site, and if you would attend. Further, as an additional incentive **\$100.00 will be awarded** to the person whose location is chosen, a split if there are multiple winners. All you need to do is send me a post card to P.O. Box 937, Blairsville, GA 30514. A thought, how does a CRUISE grab you? Thank you all in advance for your cooperation. Sincerely, "Sully" H. Thomas Sullivan

General Reno received his commission in 1974 as a distinguished graduate of the Officer Training School. He has had assignments in flying operations, training and logistics, with staff tours of duty at Headquarters Military Airlift and Air Mobility Commands, the Air Staff, the Secretary of the Air Force Office Legislative Liaison and the Defense Logistics Agency. He flew four missions into Saigon, South Vietnam, in 1975, and led air mobility logistics support for operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. We are honored that General Reno will be able to join us for our reunion in Tulsa. This will be an exciting way to conclude our day on Friday, November 9, that starts in

the morning with our Memorial Service.

Included in this edition of our Newsletter is an overview of the Reunion Program plus another registration form. Remember! We have made many helpful arrangements so those of us who don't get around quite as well will be able to enjoy many of the great events. ***The deadline for registering is October 19 so we can make the necessary arrangements for you.*** Don't wait! If you haven't yet registered (and several of you already have!), send your registration in now as soon as you finish reading this Newsletter!!

From Cliff Johnson, President

2007 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
(This Hospitality Room will be available throughout the reunion.)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- 9:15 am:** Gather in Hotel Lobby for 9:30 am departure to Freedom Elem. School, program at 10:00 am, Lunch there compliments of the school - Return to Holiday Inn
- 1:00 pm:** Bus from Holiday Inn to Will Rogers Museum, Claremore, OK.
(Davis Gun Museum Available)
- 5:00 pm:** Return to Hotel and relaxing. On our own for supper.
- 7:00 pm:** ***Remarkable Seventy-Seven Year Old Dancers Program!***

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- 9:00 to 10:00 am:** Memorial Service - Hotel Meeting Room, Chaplain John M. Nelsen
- 10:00 to 11:30 am:** Business Meeting, Hotel Meeting Room
- 11:30 to 1:00 pm:** Ladies Luncheon - Men on their own for lunch
- 12:00 Noon:** Meeting of the 2008 Board in the Board Room
- 1:30 to 4:30 pm:** Meet in Lobby for Bus Tour of Tulsa
- 6:00 to 9:30 pm:** Reunion Banquet - Speaker, Major General Loren Reno; Awards; Kitchen Katz Band

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

- 9:30 am to 3:00 pm:** Bus to 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.
- 3:00 to 4:30 pm:** At Hotel for relaxing
- 4:30 to 10:00 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 Big Band Dance beginning at 7 pm.

Notes and Contacts Received Regarding 13th AF Veterans

From Jerry Bernhard:

After searching for fifty years I finally found someone who was able to give me some information on the Presidential Unit Citation our outfit received. Because I was in the States when it was awarded it never got entered on my discharge even though I was still a part of the Group. I now know the General Order Number and the issuing Headquarters. I am hoping that someone in the organization can tell me which government organization I have to write to in order to get a copy. Thanks for (anyone's) help on this. My e-mail address is: jndto@tpg.com.au

Of General Interest:

It was recently learned that Lieutenant General Marvin L. McNickle, a former commander of the Thirteenth Air Force in the Republic of the Philippines passed away of natural causes the 19th of August, 2007. He was 93 years of age. Burial was at the Arlington National Cemetery. Some of the members of the 13 AFVA may have served under Gen. McNickle.

From George Jones:

Saw your note in the Legion Magazine regarding the 13 AF. Our 42nd Bomb Group has a lot of good info and pictures on the website, <http://www.web-birds.com/>. Scroll down on the left to 13AF and click on 42nd BG. Once there clicking on the squadron insignias will give you hundreds of pictures of our five squadrons.....There is a roster of each squadron vets there also with addresses and many with phone numbers. We had to stop having our reunions in 2006 as we were becoming too few who could travel. (George was a veteran of 55 combat missions on the B-25 Mitchell Bomber as a radio-gunner in the 42nd BG 13th AF.)



*13th AFVA Memorial Dedication. Dayton, Ohio
October 13, 2006*

From William "Skipper" McClendon:

(In a letter to Ray Perkins.) You asked for something about my experiences with the Air - Sea Rescue. There is a lady in California whose dad I rescued on my second rescue trip. She put some things together and sent them to Col. Lew Biddle(sp) of the 5th AF, a reunion honcho. He made copies and sent them out. (These will be available at the Tulsa Reunion hospitality room. Skipper's comments will make more sense when looking at the pictures which, unfortunately, will not print well in the newsletter. However, even so, the captions are interesting. "The man with me is a friend that hung the picture in his restaurant. Top right is a map of the New Guinea Area outlining the mission described. In the lower right is a picture of me and then me in B-18s, Lowry Field, Denver, November 1939. In the center is a poem I wrote while at Port Moresby in 1943."

I participated in over 150 rescue missions and according to AF records, rescued 722 people.
- Best Wishes, Skipper



*Lucian Doyle,
Chairman of
Awards
Committee,
with 13th
AFVA President
Cliff Johnson.*



Decal for 2007 Reunion Registrants



More Notes...

"The Airman's Nautical Mission"

(written about William "Skipper" McClendon)

Just before Christmas in 1942, the fledgling 5th Bomber Command moved headquarters to Port Moresby, New Guinea....and in just a few short months it had grown from a sleepy little coastal village to a sprawling ten city teeming with organized chaos. As Col Victor Bertrandeis went about the business of appropriating everything he could find that might be of use, he happened to be at the docks at Port Moresby. Who would expect the Air Force to be commandeering boats? He commandeered a small contingent of 21 boats of various sizes. One particularly good use would be for rescue of air crews if their planes ditched in the water or in close enough proximity. One had to think ahead!

Col. Bertrandeis kept an eye on the group of young men struggling to install an engine in one of the pleasure cruisers he had recently commandeered. A young airman ferrying a couple of buddies to the docs had taken an interest in the unwieldy exercise of engine installation. This officer knew something about engines and mechanics and willingly stopped to lend his expertise. "What's your name young man," Bertrandeis inquired. "Lt. William McClendon", replied the young pilot. "Well, son, from now on I want you to be in charge of these boats!" "But Sir, I am a P-38 pilot," Lt. McClendon mildly protested. Nevertheless, the assignment had been made and protest was useless. An unseen hand of fate was at work here. In that moment the life course of the young P-38 pilot took a major and unexpected turn. He became a nautical pilot as well as an aircraft pilot. Little did he realize his newly developed skills would be put to a severe test in the spring of 1944. Two B-24 aircraft

returning from a mission had gone down in the jungle of Biak Island deep in enemy territory. Five men survived and needed rescue.

The distance was almost impossible. Maps and charts, if they existed at all, were of questionable reliability. Over half the journey would be through enemy territory. The risk was incalculable, but the five crewmen had no other hope. McClendon, who was becoming known as "Skipper," had proved himself on lesser rescues. After incredible effort and difficult travel, they arrived. Imagine the elation of the beleaguered airmen as the VERA G came into view bearing the friendly faces of their comrades in arms...The joy and relief of Skip's small crew to see the starved and anxious fliers must have been overwhelming. The mission had taken more



Banquet facility at the 2006 Dayton reunion.

than a month.

Lt. "Skip" McClendon, after retiring from a distinguished career in the Air Force, even after 60 years, still considers his command of the VERA G and her crew and their accomplishment of this mission to be one of the major highlights of his life. "This is my commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15: 12,13.

From Dorothy Magill:

Our mother Vera Yuschak and our father, Paul Yuschak who served in the 307th BMG, have passed away, but they enjoyed the annual reunions with your group (13th AFVA) and enjoyed all their friends. Do have a wonderful time in Tulsa and God Bless All of You!!

I would love to get in touch with your historian. I have many artifacts that belonged to my dad as well as the story my mother wrote that documents Dad's MIA details after he was shot down.

Continued from previous page

From Charles F. Johnson

(Photos will be at the Tulsa Reunion - Hospitality room.) I'm sending you some pictures of my Dad and men he served with in the 13th Army Air Corps. His name was Charles W. Johnson, and he was a sergeant in the 69th Bomb Squad. His serial number was 3611116. He served 27 months in the combat zone in the South Pacific, and was in the First Expeditionary Force when the war started, heading to Australia and then to the invasion of Guadalcanal in August of 1942, then to New Caledonia. After several other campaigns he came down with malaria so bad they sent his group back to the states where he finished out the war in Harvard, Nebraska in the 78th Army Air Corps, a B-29 group.

My dad was always proud of being a member of the 13th Army Air Force where he was an ordnance man and loaded bombs and torpedoes for B-25 and B-26 bombers. I was in the Vietnam War, 1964 -1968, as a crew chief on a C-130A Middle Troop Carrier, 317th Tactical Air Command, 39th Sq Dw, and live in Houghton Lake, Michigan.

From RC Brock

(who learned about the 13th AFVA via the Legion Magazine) I was stationed at Clark AF Base for six months early in 1947. I had an MOS for working on remote gun systems of B-29, A-26, and the P-61 Black Widow. By this time, the war had been over for several months, the tires of the P-61s were flat and the 50 caliber machine guns had been removed. They didn't know what to do with me, so I did odd jobs like maintaining runway lights. By the way, the runways were steel mats. Finally they panned me off to Guam for work on B-29s, but the only flyable ones were used for training and weather recon. So then I went into ground and airborne radar operations for the remainder of my three years. I took a few pictures at Clark and some of the Manila ruins. A couple of years ago I sent most of them to the Philippine Historical Society. If you would like some of those remaining, I will make copies on my copier and send them to you if I had addresses.

From Duane Webb

(Legion Magazine)

I was just scanning thru the magazine and noticed the 13th AFVA announcement. I haven't heard of that unit since I was in the South Pacific on the Island of Leyte in 1945 and 1946. I was in a small maintenance unit in the Seabees, 598 CBMU. The 13th AF was really close to our Seabee base and the Village of Tolosa. Just thought I would let you know that there are a few of us left, but we are fading fast. Have a Good Day!
Duane Webb, MM First Class US Navy Seabees



13th AFVA Treasurer Bob O'Brien at business meeting in Dayton, Ohio.

From Christopher Brown

(Legion Magazine)

I have been researching the loss of my uncle, 1st Lt. Thomas F. Quinn, who was a navigator in the New Guinea area during late 1943 through all of 1945. He was KIA on January 11, 1945, while on a mission over Celebes Island. Tom was a member of the 100th Bomber Squadron, 42nd Bombardment Group, 13th AF (Jungle Air Force). All family information has been lost, but I have gathered considerable information and have extended my search to try to find anyone who would have served with him or who has detailed information about his squadron. The 42nd Bomb Group has had reunions, but I have been unable to find anyone or any specifics so that I can try to contact them. If anyone has any information, please email me at the following address: cratbrown@peoplepc.com

- REUNION REMINDER -

The Deadline to Register for the

Tulsa Reunion is

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 19
2007**



Reunion Information

REUNION EVENT SUMMARIES - We certainly look forward to what's going to happen at our Tulsa Reunion. Below are just capsules of some of the events. More detailed information is in the June 2007 issue of the newsletter and will be available when you pick up your registration materials.

THE REUNION HOTEL—The Holiday Inn Select, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Please make your reservations as soon as possible with the Holiday Inn Select Hotel, 5000 East Skelly Drive, Tulsa, OK 74135. The excellent quoted rate per night is \$68.00 per room. We have confirmed that this price includes breakfast! The Hotel telephone numbers are 1-800-836-9635 or 1-918-622-7000.

THE HOSPITALITY ROOM (Wednesday through Saturday afternoon)

This room will be available for reminiscing, story telling, and meeting old and new friends throughout the entirety of the reunion. Please remember to bring any memorabilia you would like to share.

FREEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM AND LUNCH (Thursday)

This wonderful experience will be uniquely special as we meet with school children and are serenaded with patriotic songs. The school personnel are planning this to share the observance of the coming Veterans' Day with us. Please make plans to be a part of this opportunity for the "next" generation to honor us.

WILL ROGERS MUSEUM (Thursday)

The Will Rogers museum, an incredible place, is also available during the reunion. Reports are that it is an informative and "neat" place. Will Rogers was one of the greatest humorists in our United States.

DISCOVER AND ENJOY TULSA

You will find that Tulsa is a very enjoyable city, with a wide range of "eating places" available, many right near the hotel. On Friday afternoon we have arranged for a bus tour of the city so you can learn even more about this unique place and leave the driving to our bus driver!!

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE (Friday)

Our Memorial Service to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday is one of the important events of the reunion. Plan to get breakfast out of the way in good time to attend. Dr. John M. Nelson will lead us in remembering comrades, spouses, and family members past and present.

IMPORTANT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (Friday)

Members and associate members definitely should include attendance at Friday's 13th AFVA Business Meeting. We will need to accept or modify the recommendation for the officers for 2007- 08, select a newsletter editor, consider future reunion locations, discuss future plans for the association, as well as present the 13th AFVA financial report. Please note that this meeting is on Friday due to the full day of activities on Saturday.

THE REUNION BANQUET (Friday)

Our speaker, Major General Loren Reno, Tinker Air Force Base Commander, communicates very well and is highly regarded by those who serve with him. The evening includes special awards, the unique Kitchen Katz Band, and the passing of the gavel to the next president of the 13th AFVA.

THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE (Saturday)

This organization, formerly known as the Confederate Air Force, presents a day full of exciting events on the reunion's final day, Saturday. Of particular interest will be fly-overs and viewing of WWII aircraft. Plan to join us as we join in on the "Celebrate Freedom 2007" activities presented by the Commemorative Air Force.

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





The 13th Air Force Veteran's Association

1779 Wilmington Road
Cedarville, OH 45314

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215 Outer Loop, Louisville, KY 40214

The 13th AF Website is Up-To-Date and Running!

It includes photos, recent newsletters, histories, and the registration form for the 2007 Tulsa Reunion. Take a look at

www.13afvets.org

and tell us what you think, suggestions are welcome too!

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.

