



"The Lads from Fowlmere"

Volume 35, Issue 4

Editor: Stephen C. Ananian

Hlerry Christmas!





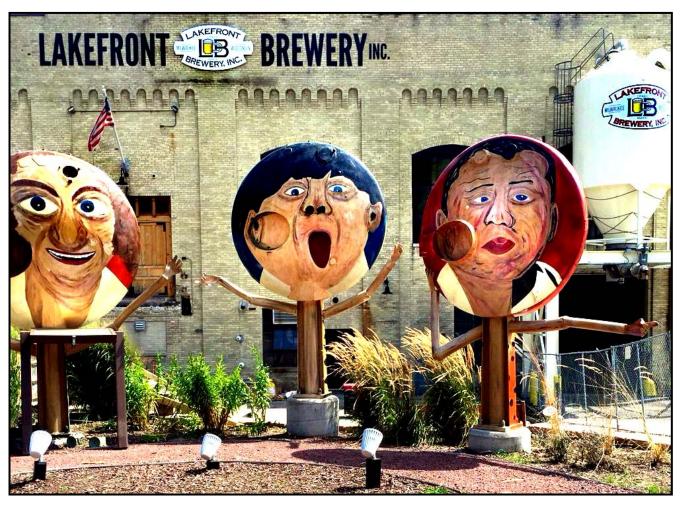
Above: - our veterans of the 339th stand in front of the P-51 at the EAA Museum at Oshkosh. Standing in the rear are President Steve Ananian and Vice President Bill MacClarence. Seated in front are L-R Bill Moore, Dick Thieme and Larry Powell. Not in above photo but at Reunion was homing station operator, Eddie Epp! Photo William Clark



And a Happy New Year!

Stephen Ananian and the Board of Directors of the 339th TGA

Another Great Reunion!



The front of the Lakefront Brewery displays of "Folk Art" created on the round bottoms of discarded stainless steal fermentation tanks.

Photo S. C. Ananian

We Did It Again!

By Stephen Ananian, Editor

We just completed our 36th Annual Reunion and all that attended promised to meet again next year! As always a great time was had by all! The numbers attending changed from day to day due to the illnesses and problems that come from age but the final count was fifty one attending and of those attending six were original Veterans of the 339th Fighter Group. The Veterans attending were myself, Steve Ananian, Eddie Epp, 504th Homing Station operator, our Vice President Bill MacClarence, Bill Moore, Larry Powell and our Treasurer Dick Thieme. All except for Eddie were 505th pilots!

It was nice seeing Eddie Epp back again this time with his son



Our "Guests of Honor" Herb and Anne Bevelhymer, daughter of our beloved CO John and Maxine Henry.

Photo Linda Moore

John. We also welcomed Ray Ellis, our friend and guest from the UK. Ray has been a guide to any of our members who have visited England in recent times and a good friend of the 339th Fighter Group!



Ray Ellis, our "Friend of the 339th" from the UK attended our Reunion.

Photo L. Moore

Also in attendance were our Airshow PT-17 pilots of the last 2 years, Tye Hammerle, Pete and wife Marie Spear, the quests of Tressa Marbach and her dad 503rd pilot Bill Perry.

On Friday we all went on a tour of the Lakefront Brewery, sampled the various fine beers and had a great fried fish lunch before returning back to the hotel and the Hospitality Suite.

On Saturday we returned to the EAA Museum at Oshkosh after several years' absence. The tour of the museum included a "climb around" of a P-51D parked on the field. We veterans remember those great days past! Some of us were able to climb into the cockpit of that beautiful bird and enjoy the comfort of sitting in that "home away from home". What a thrill that was!

This veteran was in paradise!

We were fortunate to meet a "First Time Attendee" on Saturday. Donald Henneghan and his wife Marilyn were there. Donald is the Nephew of $505^{\rm th}$ pilot Floyd Henneghan who was

reported MIA (Missing In Action) on May 21st 1944. An unknown caller thought to be 2nd Lt. Floyd Henneghan said he was wounded and was bailing out over the English Channel near the French/Belgium Border and was not heard from again. Floyd's name is

Continued next page

HENEGHAN FLOYD P

505th pilot, 2nd Lt. Floyd Heneghan's name is on the "Wall of The Missing" at Henri Chapel, the American Military Cemetery at Ardennes.

Photo Peter Randall

on the "Wall of The Missing" at Henri Chapel in the Ardennes Military Cemetery. Note that we were known as the "339th Fighter Bomber Group" at that time! A few days later we became the "339th Fighter Group", (no Bomber)!

We had our annual meeting on Sunday morning. The members decided that we all enjoyed our stay in Milwaukee but decided to change our reunion site to Dayton Ohio next year to visit the Air Force Museum. Bill Clark, our Reunion Chairman was asked to research the city! The members also voted to keep our present officers for another term.

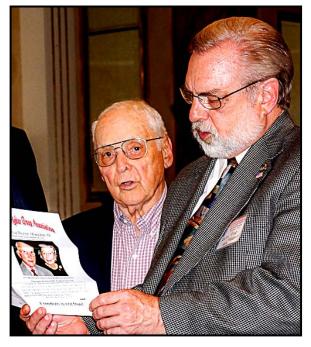
The officers having no choice accepted the honor of serving once again!

We had our Banquet Dinner on Sunday Night! Anne and Herb Bevelhymer daughter and son-in-law of our beloved CO John Henry were our Honored Guests. Anne presented me with a gift; a rare book entitled "The Air Force" by the Air Force Foundation. A book that I will always cherish! Herb tells me that he served in Vietnam with our founder Jim Starnes as his CO. Hopefully; Herb will write us some stories for our Newsletters in the future!

Larry Powell was our guest Speaker and told us about his trip back to Fowlmere and his visit to his POW prisons in Germany! He then showed us Movies that were aired on "Public TV" about his and Jim Starnes combat accounts in the 339th.

I also had the honor of presenting our honored guest from England, Ray Ellis, and guests Tye Hammerle, and Pete Spear our PT-17 pilots with certificates making them honorary members of the 339th Fighter Group Association. I also presented the WWII Veterans present and our guests with "Challenge Coins", a gift from honorary member Michael George owner of "Worry Bird" (one of two P-51s left with 339th markings).

The Banquet ended with everyone singing "God Bless America" and then most of us retired to the Hospitality Suite for more stories and adult beverages!



Eddie Epp, 504th Homing station operator and son John sing "God Bless America" at Sunday's Banquet. Photo Linda Moore

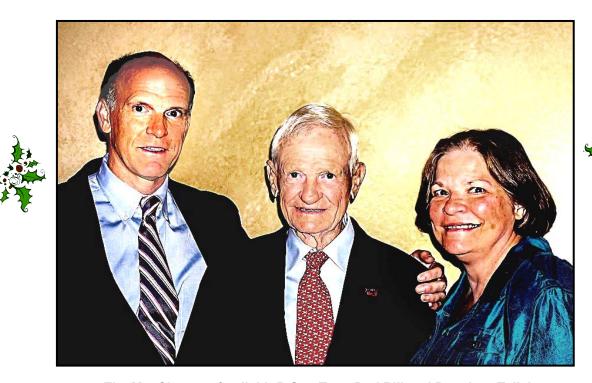
The next morning we had our Farewell Breakfast and said our goodbyes and vowed to see one another again Next Year!

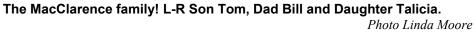
Reunion Photos!



The Clark Family! L-R Thomas & Gail Fleming, Sharon & Bill Clark and Joyce & Larry Eiswald.

Photo Linda Moore





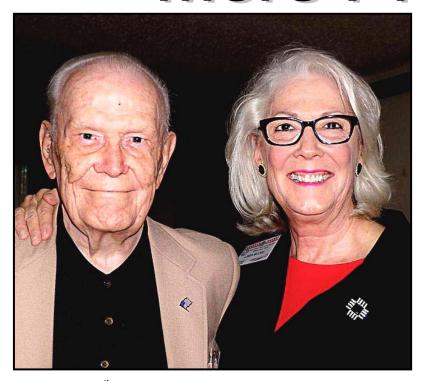


Dues for 2015 are only \$10

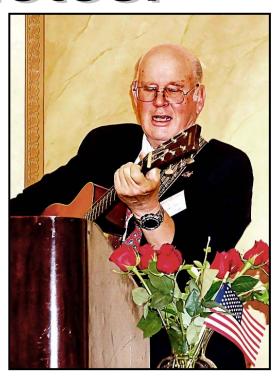
Newsletter Circulation is 460 - USA 182+ (226 Email), Overseas 25+ (27 Email)



More Photos!



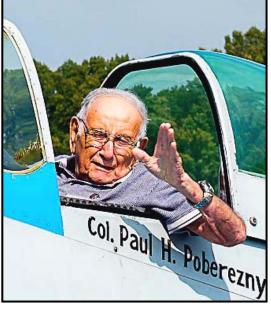
505th Pilot Bill Moore and daughter Linda. *Photo Linda Moore*



Bill Clark sings his song of our CO, "The Ballad of the 339". *Photo L. Moore*



Color Guard of the 128th Air Refueling Wing. *Photo Linda Moore*



Steve Ananian once again in the cockpit of a Mustang says, "I'm back in the Saddle again" Photo Bill Clark





Back to The National WWII Museum



The Victory Bells sing those old songs of the Andrew Sisters.

Photo Cas Puccio



Steve Ananian and Museum staff member pose in front of C.A.F. P-51C. Photo Cas Puccio

By Casper "Cas" Puccio, (Steve's nephew)

Last October 2014, The National WWII Museum in New Orleans held an Air Show which featured WWII aircraft, supplied and flown by the Commemorative Air Force. On Friday, the first day of the show, the planes were on display on the tarmac for close inspection by the public. Visitors could walk through the bombers to get a feel of what it was like to be a crew member. Or they could sit in the cockpit of a fighter. On Saturday and Sunday the C.A.F. sold rides in these planes. The planes flew most of the day, even though the prices for the flights started at \$400 and went up to \$1,800. These monies were needed to cover the expense to keep these vintage aircraft flying.

My uncle Steve and other pilots and aircrew members were questioned by school children and visitors on their combat experiences while flying during that great war!.

E TOKYO KAIDENS

E TOK

ASSOCI

Lt Col Dick Cole
Co Pilot
Crew #1

WYIT

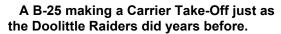
TUTTRAN

Col. Richard Cole, Gen. Doolittle's copilot on the Tokyo Raid and 339th pilot Stephen Ananian.

Photo Cas Puccio

Beside the interviews on stage of these WWII Veterans, they had "The Victory Bells", a singing trio of talented girls that sang the songs of the forties "a la Andrew Sisters". The show was such a









100th Birthday Challenge Coin of Col. Richard Cole *Photo S. Ananian*

success that they held it again this year and plan on making it a regular yearly event.

The attendees and museum staff enjoyed my Uncle Steve's stories of the 339^{th} FG so much last year that they invited him back again this year. From the crowd's reactions to the stories and the comments I got from the staff, they were not disappointed.

This year the Guest of Honor was Colonel Richard Cole (Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot on that famous Tokyo Raid) and my Uncle Steve the only fighter pilot there with other WWII Veterans, were there to meet the school children that attended, answered questions and signed autographs. Col. Richard Cole is one of the four remaining members of that famous Tokyo Raid and was also celebrating his 100^{th} birthday. He presented my Uncle Steve with a commemorative Challenge Coin made specially to celebrate the occasion.

The best time for me, however, occurred on last year's trip. Uncle Steve and I arrived at the airfield early on Friday morning. We walked out of the specially prepared hangar for the Museum and on to the tarmac where the planes were parked. As I was looking around, my uncle walked ahead of me directly to an open cockpit PT-17 twin-winged Primary Trainer.



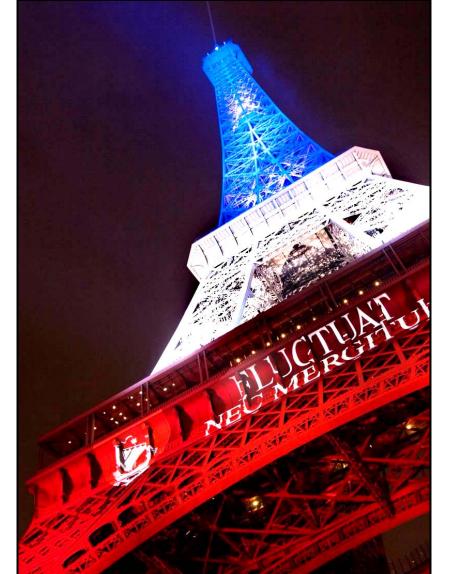
That was the first plane Steve ever flew. My uncle stopped and gently put his hand on the plane's wing as if he was touching a baby's skin. I could see in his eyes that this wasn't a ninety-two year old man fondling that vintage aircraft. This was that twenty-one year old lad of '43 who flew that plane for the first time at Souther Field in Americus GA. The same field that his Hero Charles Lindberg had soloed twenty years before! I thought the members of the 339^{th} FG would enjoy this story, having attended a few reunions, I know the same

spirit and love of flying that exists in all of them as well.

The museum is a place that all WWII Veterans must visit! Unlike other museums, that just house a bunch of artifacts with signs, the displays and videos at this Museum give much more a sense of what being there during that war was really like. During the featured Wide-Screen I-max Type movie, which you MUST SEE, even the ground shakes when the cannons and 16 inch guns on the battleships are fired. Real snow actually falls on you and you feel you are there in the freezing winter of 1944, and actually in the "Battle of the Bulge". You cringe in fear as you sit in the nose of a B-17 and fly over the Target with anti aircraft shells bursting all around you! Do Not Miss This Movie!

France Declares War on Isis!





The Eiffel Tower lighted in Blue White and Red, the Tricolors of France

By Stephen C. Ananian, Editor

Francois Hollande, the president of France declared war on Isis in retaliation for the terrorist attacks on Paris on 13 Nov 2015. The Eiffel Tower was lighted in the colors of the French tri-colors, Blue, White and Red. The Latin motto of the City of Paris was projected on the Tower in white lettering "Fluctuat Nec Mergitur". The words in English translate, "She is tossed by the waves but does not sink." The Eiffel Tower, Louvre and all public buildings were closed to the public to prevent any possible attack by the Radical Islamic Terrorists on these famous landmarks.



Stephen Ananian

Editor's Corner

Vive La France!

By Stephen Ananian, Editor/pilot 505th FS

As we go to press we have learned of another Terrorist attack in Paris. Our prayers are with the French people on their tragic loss of lives due to these barbaric Radical Islamic Terrorists. **Freedom is not free!**

I hate these bastards, they killed my grandparents! Civilization as we know it will not be secure until every one of these Radical Islamic Terrorists has been killed!

Long live France! - Long live The U.S.A.!

On a more pleasant note, our thanks go to Cathy Wilke, her husband Bill and our Reunion coordinator William Clark for working all year long planning another successful Reunion. Also thanks to Sharon Clark who looks after the provisions of our Hospitality Suite and its successful operation. We also owe Jack Verhil for his valuable assistance during our stay. Thanks also go to our Treasurer Richard Thieme for his work and Vice President Bill MacClarence who always provides us the 339th Caps for sale to our reunion attendees!

We have attended our reunions in Milwaukee for the past three years due to the great service provided the 339^{th} FG Association by Danielle Skipper, program manager and her Best Western Plus Hotel staff! We are so grateful!



Casper "Cas Puccio

It was comforting to see and meet all our friends once again, getting to visit the sites in Milwaukee and sitting in the Cockpit of a P-51 once again after 70 years! I was on "Cloud Nine!"

I returned home to find an invitation from Tom Gibbs of the National WWII Museum to attend a three-day all expense paid visit to a WWII Air Show in New Orleans! So back to the airport with my nephew and off to Louisiana I went! I was at the Air show representing the 339^{th} Fighter Group, signing autographs and relating the accomplishments of the 339^{th} and the 8^{th} Air Force during the war.

My nephew, "Cas" Puccio tells the story of our visit to the WWII Air show on page 4.

Our Guest Speaker at the Banquet this year was our former president Larry Powell who showed us movies from Public Television about his and Jim Starnes WWII combat experiences. We will read Larry's story in the next Newsletter.

Lucky me! "The Good Lord Willing," I will celebrate my 93rd birthday on Christmas Day!

M Merry Christmas M











We mourn our loss - - -



DECEASED:-

Helen Starnes passed away on June 13th 2013 peacefully at the age of 89. Predeceased by her husband 505th pilot James Starnes, she is survived by her sister Myrtle Schwartz, a son George, a daughter Cherry Diefenbach and three grandchildren. Helen's disabled son George currently receives services at Mac Donald's training Center in Tampa, FL.



Helen Starnes

- From the Internet, Editor -

Nora Payne Kunz, 89 died peacefully at de Greeff Hospice on August 15th 2015. She was the wife of 504th pilot Leonard Kunz, (who predeceased her in 2013.) My dad was a proud 339th member. The family is proud of his service and of all the 339th Fighter Group members!

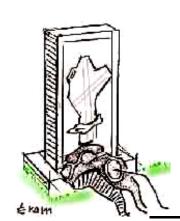
- Barbara Hack, daughter -

Our condolences to all the families on their loss.



In Alemorium

The following have donated monies in memory of their loved ones:-



\$50 in memory of 505th pilot **Laird Travis** by his sister-in-law Colleen Travis.
\$50 in memory of 505th pilot **Capt**. **Richard Olander** by his brother Donald
\$50 in memory of 504th Armorer **Robert Strachan** by Patricia Solley





Donations



\$65 James Bashford, \$45 Edward Epp, \$30 Joyce Eiswald, \$80 Stanley Bloomberg, \$30 William Raines, \$30 Gregory Arabian, \$25 Susan Gibbs, \$20 W. Fred Perry, \$20 Joan Livingston Johnson.

We thank you all for your generous donations.



The Mail Bag

I received the following Email from David Newman secretary of the Historic Ryde Society that has a Museum on the Isle of Wight, an island off England's southern shores.







Photo above shows wreckage of 339th pilots that crashed in bad weather below the Cliffs of Dover and the Isle of Wight. Photo on left has the photos of pilots 2nd Lt. Gerald Palmer and Capt. Robert Bloxham that were MIA that day

Hello Stephen,

I have enclosed pics of some of the Mustang parts being recovered off Ryde by one of our volunteers Alan Brading. Pilots were Capt. Robert Bloxham and Lt Gerald Palmer in "Umbriago" and "Miss Idaho". We hope to display in a better format in the near future. Best wishes,

David Newman, secretary, Historic Ryde Society.

Thank you for those Photos! I am sending you an account of what happened that day for your Museum.



We received the following note from "First Time Attendee" Donald Heneghan nephew of 505th pilot Floyd who was reported Missing In Action.

Dear Steve,

"We want to thank you and the family of the 339th for a wonderful reunion. From the moment we arrived, we felt welcomed and honored to meet such a great group of people. I appreciate the many helpful leads and suggestions offered to help me piece together my Uncle Floyd P. Heneghan's time in the 339th. Again, thank you.

We look forward to many years of friendship. Best regards, Don and Marilyn Heneghan

We are pleased to have been of assistance Don and look forward to meeting you again in the near future.



Ray Ellis our recent reunion attendee from the UK writes:-

Dear Steve. 10/3/15

I just wanted to record my thanks and appreciation to all members who attended the reunion. I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the proceedings.

I immediately felt among friends and I really enjoyed the many smiles and laughter that we all enjoyed together.

Thanks to all for putting up with my English sense of humour?

I have so many memories that I will treasure, especially enjoying watching the Green Bay Packers game with pilots from Fowlmere, for me it was such a privilege to meet you all.



Ray Ellis gives us a "Thumbs Up" from his seat in a Mustang! Photo William Clark

As always I would be delighted to act as a driver/guide if any members wish to visit Cambridgeshire, I can assure you of a very warm welcome.

Blue Skies. Ray Ellis.

Dear Ray what a joy and pleasure it was to finally meet you. We are all looking forward to seeing you next year!







Mark Donagain writes us from Fowlmere:-



Dave digging up history!

Hi Steve,



Mon 10/19/2015 4:43

Hope you are well,

Dave and I have been digging up history again. We found part of a stove and the stone base it sat on. See photo!

Its turning colder over here now, so winter is on its way. It's time to replace the flowers at the memorial to winter flowers. I'm not sure if I told you, but I managed to persuade a local garden centre to provide the plants at the memorial without cost. They are called Phillimore garden centre.

I noticed in the newsletter that Michael George had some challenge coins made. I wondered if he had some for sale. I would gladly pay for some. Or I could make a donation to the 339th.

I hear Bill and Sharon are planning a visit to England again. They must love coming back again. We are looking forward to seeing them again.

I've managed to catch up with Ray Ellis at last today. He's been on holiday over here to the county of Yorkshire. He

has told me all about his trip to see you all, and told me the story about your beer tab at the Chequers Pub. You still haven't paid for after all those years.

It did make me laugh!

Ray and I will try to make next year's reunion, just wish I could have made it to this year's.

I'd like to thank you Steve and Bill Moore and Richard Theme for signing the 339th History Book, which will go on display,

Also thanks to you for the posters from this year reunion, I will treasure them.

Your friend Steve Haktanirs was here on a visit to Fowlmere. It went really well! He's very passionate about the history of the 339th. Dave and I helped him plan his route for a day of visiting the airfields in Suffolk and Norfolk.

We spent so much time talking that we did not get much time to take photos of his visit! It's always wonderful to have visitors to Fowlmere.



Mark and Steve Hakatanir at Fowlmere.

Thank you Steve, for all the things and help you give me, it's

very much appreciated! Keep well, Mark



Always nice hearing the latest from you Mark! Please thank the Philmore garden Center on our behalf. We appreciate their gift. The Challenge coins are not for sale. We have been presenting them as gifts for our friends! Yours is in the mail! I tried to pay my beer tab but it was generously refused by management!



England is celebrating the anniversary of "The Battle of Britain"! Mark sent us the following from Fowlmere!

Hi Steve Mon 9/14/2015 3:12 AM

We had some visitors to the airfield on Saturday; they were Edward Sterecki, Henry Sterecki, Henryk Madej, representing the 302 Squadron Polish pilots that flew from here during WWII.

They are commemorating the Duxford Big Wing and the Battle of Britain. With the Spitfire squadrons being based at Fowlmere it was only right to remember the role played by both airfields.

The wreaths were placed by the Scouts from 1st Whittlesford, Duxford Scouts and the Polish Girl Guide Association.

At Duxford where we were also honoured to be joined by representatives from the Czech and Slovak Republics to highlight the fact that the wing was indeed a multinational force. Sadly the Canadians could not attend.

Photos are attached! Mark Donagain.





Poles, Czech and Slovak Republic pilots pose with Mark at Fowlmere, where they were based before the 339th FG,

Photo M. Donagain



The wreaths were placed by the Scouts from 1st Whittlesford and Duxford Scouts and the Polish Girl Guide Association.

Photo M. Donagain



Wreaths placed at Fowlmere memorial. *Photo M, Donagain*



Polish Veterans of the "Battle of Britain" stand under Spitfire they flew at Duxford. Photo $M.\ Donagain$

Thank you Mark! What an exciting time you had! We thank those responsible for the wreaths placed on our memorial! We just wish we could be there to join in the celebration with you all.

Continued on next page



The following from Lisa Tongue niece of deceased 505th pilot Arthur Tongue.

Dear Stephen: 8/27/15

Your newsletter just prompted my memory. I wanted to let you know that in December I went to London for vacation and spent a special day at Madingley visiting my Uncle Ted (Lt. Arthur E. Tongue). I think I am the only member of my family who has ever visited him and while it was an emotional day I could not help but be grateful to him and all of the other men and women who died for

our great country. Madingley is a beautiful cemetery so I was comforted that at least all of the outstanding individuals interned there were truly resting in peace. As I just typed that I realize the irony of that phrase, "Rest in Peace." What they were all fighting for brought them eternal peace as well as peace for millions of others.

The curator of Madingley was nice enough to take me to my Uncle's grave. He also gave me British and American flags that he placed on either side of my Uncle's headstone. He then used sand from Omaha



Arthur's grave with the Christmas tree.

Beach to fill in the engraved information on my Uncle's tombstone. The curator said that during WWII there were more than 60 airstrips near Madingley. That is amazing. I remember seeing in a past newsletter all of the bullets and other artillery that have been found in the area.

I will be sending in a contribution this week but in the meantime I have attached a picture of me at Uncle Ted's grave at Madingley and my Uncle's tombstone along with his fellow patriots. Since it was during the holidays I thought it only appropriate that Uncle Ted have a Christmas tree. Next time I visit I will bring him a fruitcake.

Again, thank you for this newsletter and for letting feel the presence of my uncle and all of the other heroes.

Sincerely, Lisa Tongue

A great Christmas story! So pleased that you were able to visit your Uncle's grave and that we were able to be of assistance.

Roster Changes

Change: -

Robert D. Strachan, 504th son of Armorer 494 Helen Drive, Hubard, OH, 44425-2251

Gary Deaton, Son-in-law of Hollis Long EM ATT 2356 Mill House Lane, Mathews, NC 28104

Jim Rosati, 505th son of James Communications Maintenance, 6315 55th Ave N, Apt 304, Crystal, MN 55428

Roland Smith Sr, 504^{th} pilot 1599 County Route 1, Oswego, NY 13126-5948

Add:-

Gail C. Fleming, HQ daughter of C.O. William Clark 2719 Highcrest Road, Rockford, IL 61107-1216

Servet "Steve" Haktanir, P.E., Friend of the 339^{th} FG 8010 Oakwood Garden St., Houston, TX 77040-4460

Joan Livingston Johnson, 505th Niece of pilot Jim Baker 535 39th Coyrt S.W., Vero Beach, FL 32968-4013

Delete: - Walter Edwards, & Michael Cotter, Newsletters marked "deceased"





339th Fighter Group Association Board of Directors

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Newsletter Editor

Stephen C. Ananian - Phone (864) 288-2599 Email: - stephen.ananian@339fg.com Linda Moore - Staff photographer

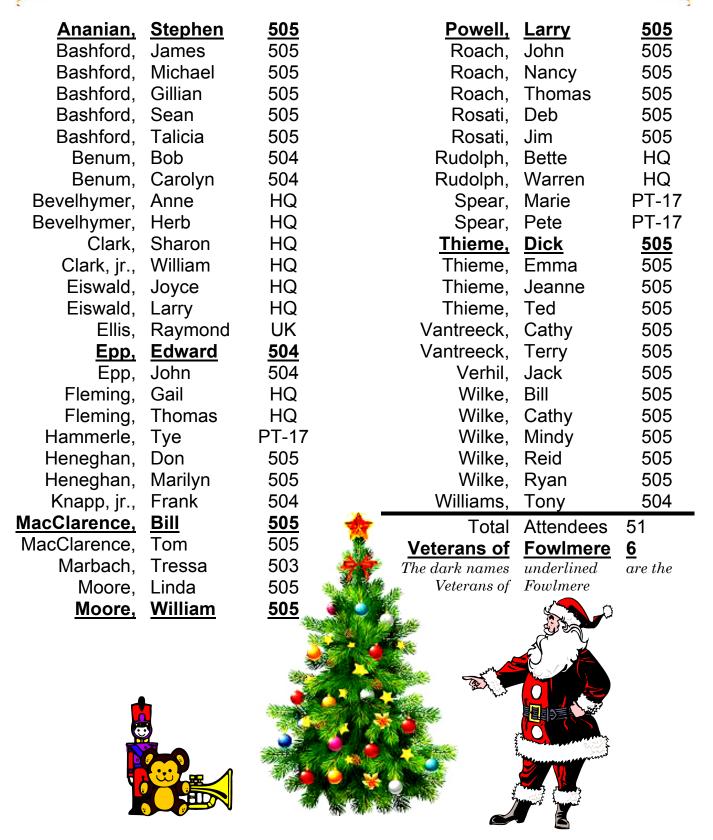


We are on the Internet

339th Home page: - www.339thfg.com "Little Friends" at - www.littlefriends.co.uk Ananian Family site – www.ananian.com



2015 Reunion Attendees-



339th Fighter Group Association, Inc.

c/o Stephen C. Ananian 4 North Orchard Farms Avenue Simpsonville, SC 29681-4866, USA



US Postage



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*	MAILING LIST UPDATE FORM

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