



THE PYRAMIDIERS

The Newsletter of the 98th Bomb Group/Wing Veterans Association

August 2019

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Historian Emeritus
In Memoriam

Message from the President

July 20, 1969—Americans land and walk on the moon! The 50th anniversary of this historic event is upon us—stirring memories of that momentous time in our lives. What were you doing that day? Like most people, my family and I watched the coverage on TV (ours was a 16" black-and-white Packard Bell portable). We were amazed when the shots from the moon came on screen, and we witnessed Neil Armstrong slowly descend to the surface of the moon and announce, *"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."* I was 20 years old, home from college, and worked at a local gas station. The evening of the moon landing I was working the graveyard shift, and I spent much of that evening just staring up at the big, full moon, amazed that there were two American upon it. The "space race" was truly an amazing time to be alive!

Living near Wright-Patterson AFB, we are just an hour south of the town of Wapakoneta, the home of Neil Armstrong, and it has an excellent space museum—if you have never been there, you need to put it on your travel "bucket list." There are numerous activities scheduled for the moon landing anniversary, both there and at the National Air Force Museum on Wright-Patt. This has turned into quite an historic summer, with the 75th anniversary of D-Day recently celebrated. The Air Force Museum has a terrific exhibit to celebrate this "day of days." Alas, it has also been a time of saying "Farewell" to the last living member of the Doolittle Raiders, Lt Col Dick Cole, who was born in Dayton, and passed on April 9, 2019.



Bill West

Message from the President *continued from page 1*

Linda and I were recently up to her home town of Rio, Wisconsin and spent much time with her father, fellow 98th Bomb Group member Phil Tarpley. Phil is quickly nearing his 96th birthday and is in good health. He just started his second year at the local assisted living residence. It is a small operation with around 20 residents total; staff and residents all love Phil. We enjoyed our drives in the countryside looking for deer, turkey, and any other wild life he used to hunt and Dad was of course sporting his 98th Bomb Group hat. Each evening we would enjoy a visit and ice cream.

Our reunion in Dallas is quickly approaching, and I trust you have mailed in your registration and made travel arrangements. This will be an historic reunion for the 98th, as we will be joining up with other bomb groups for the first time. Looking forward to see you there!

Best wishes,

Bill West



Message from the Secretary/Treasurer

To All—Greetings from an unusually HOT and HUMID Michigan—absolutely the worst in my thirty-three years of living here! Dallas is going to have nothing on us in regards to the weather next month.

Which brings me to reminding you all of our upcoming Reunion in ‘Big D’ coming up very soon September 19-22. This will be our first as part of the combined 464th Bomb Groups of the 15th Air Force, who have welcomed and invited us to join their ranks that we may continue our tradition of yearly reunions to remember, celebrate and pay tribute to our members—both present and missing. We have 20 registered and hopefully a few more to come. So, if you haven’t registered or have been ‘sitting on the fence,’ send in your registrations and come be with us there! We are sure you will be pleasantly surprised that you will have the same wonderful time as always, enjoying the comradeship of many new friends who have shared in your same experiences. The planning has been excellent and with a lot of thought. There are interesting trips planned (scooters/wheel chairs available for any who need them), and the room rates are fantastic!

As I sat down to write this note I couldn’t help but think of all the brave men we know or have known who participated in many different ways 76 years ago:

1 August 1943: Operation Tidal Wave

Ploesti was a massive complex consisting of seven major refineries, storage tanks and related structures covering 19 square miles that supplied Germany with one third of its entire fuel oil needs. Probably the most famous mission of the 98th was the Low Level Raid to Ploesti. On this raid, of the 47 B-24s launched, only 21 returned safely. One crashed on takeoff with the loss of all crewmembers but two. Six aborted before reaching the target. Seventeen went down in enemy territory, and two went down at sea. For his leadership, the Group Commander, Col. John R. (Killer) Kane was awarded the Medal of Honor.

As I thought of those heroes all, I remembered a famous World War II poem that I memorized long ago in high school and it seemed fitting to include it in this newsletter (opposite page).

Susie

PS: A belated Happy 90th Birthday to my guy, Herk Staudenmeyer and a Happy Birthday to Art Palmer who will turn 90 on September 21.

FYI—Because this is still sometimes confusing to me!! Dues are \$20 per Fiscal Year (July 1–June 30), and we are just beginning our 2019 year.

Elegy

A white sheet on the tail gate of a truck
Becomes an altar, two small candlesticks
Sputter at each side of the crucifix
Laid round with flowers brighter than the blood,
Red as the red of our apocalypse,
Hibiscus that a marching man will pluck
To stick into his rifle or his hat,
And great blue morning glories pale as lips
That shall no longer taste or kiss or swear.
The wind begins a low magnificat,
The chaplain chats, the palmtrees swirl their hair,
The columns come together through the mud.

We too are ashes as we watch and hear
The psalm, the sorrow, and the simple praise
Of one whose promised thoughts of other days
Were such as ours, but now wholly destroyed.
The service record of his youth wiped out,
The dream dispersed by shot, must disappear.
What can we feel but wonder at a loss
That seems to point at nothing but the doubt
Which flirts our sense of luck into the ditch?
Reader of Paul who prays beside this fosse
Shall we believe our eyes or legends rich
With glory and rebirth beyond the void?

For this comrade is dead, dead in the war,
A young man out of millions yet to live,
One cut away from all that war can give,
Freedom of self and peace to wander free.
Who mourns in all this sober multitude
Who did not feel the bite of it before
The bullet found its aim? This worthy flesh,
This boy laid in a coffin and reviewed—
Who has not wrapped himself in this same flag,
Heard the light fall of dirt, his wound still fresh,
Felt his eyes closed, and heard the distant brag
Of the last volley of humanity?

By chance I saw him die, stretched on the ground,
A tattooed arm lifted to take the blood
Of someone else sealed in a tin. I stood
During the last delirium that stays
The intelligence a tiny moment more.
And then the strangulation, the last sound.
The end was sudden, like a foolish play,
A stupid fool slamming a foolish door,
The absurd catastrophe, half-prearranged,
And all the decisive things still left to say.
So we disbanded, angrier and unchanged,
Sick with the utter silence of dispraise.

We ask for no statistics of the killed,
For nothing political impinges on
This single casualty, or all those gone,
Missing or healing, sinking or dispersed,
Hundreds of thousands counted, millions lost.
More than an accident and less than willed
Is every fall, and this one like the rest?
However other calculate the cost,
To us the final aggregate is *one*,
One with a name, one transferred to the blest;
And though another stoops and takes the gun,
We cannot add the second to the first.

The time to mourn is short that best becomes
The military dead. We lift and fold the flag,
Lay bare the coffin with its written tag,
And march away. Behind, four others wait
To lift the box, the heaviest of loads.
The anesthetic afternoon benumbs,
Sickens our senses, forces back our talk.
We know that others on tomorrow’s roads
Will fall, ourselves perhaps, the man beside,
Over the world the threatened, all who walk:
And could we mark the grave of him who died
We would write this beneath his name and date:

EPITAPH

Underneath this wooden cross there lies
A Christian killed in battle. You who read,
Remember that this stranger died in pain;
And passing here, if you can lift your eyes
Upon a peace kept by human creed,
Know that one soldier has not died in vain.

Full title: *Elegy for a Dead Soldier*, 1944, by Karl Shapiro

For the Record . . . For the Record . . .

Deceased

L Name	F Name	MI	City	State	Zip	Pos	AC	SQD	DOD
Abbondondelo	Joseph	A.	Melville	NY	11747	Assoc	B-24	455	05/21/2019
Carbone	Ernest	J.	Riverside	CA	92506	LM	B-47	A&E	03/07/2019
Crist	Neal (Maj)	S.	El Paso	TX	79924	FE	B-29	343	06/26/2018
Daniels	James	L.	Montgomery	AL	36111	TG	B-24	415	08/2018
Harper	Herbert	C.	Georgetown	TN	37336	GP	B-29	345	05/22/2019
Jette	Joseph	R.	Central Falls	RI	02863	TG	B-24	345	07/29/2013
Lowery	William	R.	Ann Arbor	MI	48103	P	B-24	344	06/07/2016
Milligan	Lucy (Mrs Lindley Hussey)	B.	Prescott	AZ	86305	Hon	B-24	344	07/13/2013
Nisbett	Donald (Maj)	S.	Clarkston	MI	48348	P	B-47	343	01/27/2019
Pesek Jr.	John	T.	Ames	IA	50010	RBN	B-24	344	02/11/2019

New Address

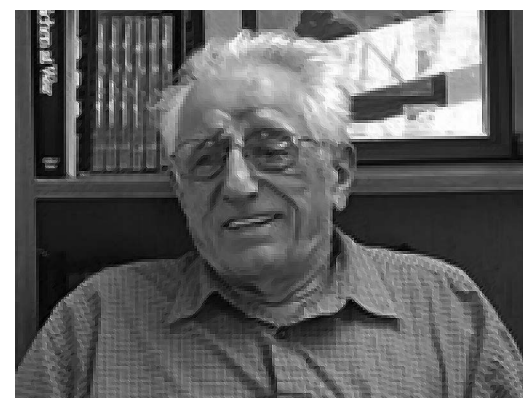
L Name	F Name	MI	Street Address	City	State	Zip	POS	AC	SQD
Campedelli	Francis		1704 Shoreview Dr.	Jacksonville	FL	32218	NG	B-24	344
Carver	Norman	H.	P.O. Box 329	Bloomington	TX	77951	G	B-29	353
Franzyshen	Karol (Lt Col)	E.	25 Laurel Ave	Florence	NJ	08518	BN	B-47	345
Goodall	Robert	A.	1335 Columbia Ct	Davenport	IA	52804	LM*	B-47	A&E
Jaworski	Phillip		6506 Morning Glory Ln	Medina	OH	44266	LM	B-29	344
Koplinka	George	B.	3826 Royal Blvd	Lynchburg	VA	24503	N	B-29	345
Mockler	Major David	F.	391 Pleasant St, Unit 206	Melrose	MA	2176	P	B-47	344
Stauffer	Robert	E.	34 Hobart St, Apt 100	Southington	CT	6489	GP	B-29	343
Bentley	Jim (CMSgt)		11549 SW Lake Park Dr	Port St Lucie	FL	34987	Assoc	B-29	344
Chrispin	Grant	W.	5363 Wakefield Dr	Hilliard	OH	43026	Assoc	B-24	345
Schinsing	Simone	M.	2263 Wilmar Ave	Oceano	CA	93445	Assoc	B-29	345
Seals	Amy	E.	1375 Cattail Ct	San Marcos	CA	92078	Assoc	B-47	345
Strauss	Suzanne	R.	3916 N Potsdam Ave	Sioux Falls	SD	57104	Assoc	B-24	344
Bolen	Mrs. Betty		300 Broadway Rd	Hunlock Creek	PA	18621	Hon	B-24	345
Bond	Mrs. William		4101 Wynford Cir	Pensacola	FL	32501	Hon	B-24	345
Disana	Mrs. Ginni		1129 19th Ave	Longview	WA	98632	Hon	B-47	343
Kenney	Joan	C.	1258 Wedgewood Manor Way	Reston	VA	20190	Hon	B-29	343
Puckett	Mrs. George	W.	260 Sedro Trl	Georgetown	TX	78633	Hon	B-29	343
Rund	Janet	B.	855 E Basse Rd, Apt 142	San Antonio	TX	78209	Hon	B-24	344

*LM Weapons

In Memory of Joe Abbondondelo

My dad, Joseph A. Abbondondelo, served in the Army Air Corp. during World War II and flew with the 15th Air Force, 455th Bomb Group H (Heavy). The 304th Wing, 742nd Squadron. He flew on both the B-24 Liberator and the B-17 Superfortress.

He trained as an Aerial Gunner and held the waist gun position, and achieved the rank of Technical Sergeant. Two of the bombers my father flew on were "The Virginia Princess" and "Flack Alley Sally."



Joseph A. Abbondondelo

He was briefly stationed in North Africa, then the Foggia Air Force Base, near San Giovanni, Italy, and took part in the Allied Strategic Bombing of Oil Refineries against Nazi Germany. Campaigns my Dad flew in included Normandy, Italy, the Air Offensive in Europe and the Balkans, including Ploesti.

My dad's plane was shot down on June 26, 1944 during a bombing raid on the oil refineries at Moorsbierbaum, Austria. I believe that was his 44th mission. My father was wounded in action and captured by the Germans, after which he spent seven months as a prisoner of

war in Stalag Luft 4 until late January, 1945 when the Germans evacuated the camp as the approaching Soviet Army began their drive towards Berlin. I used to tell Dad that he did more living in three years than most people do in a lifetime.

My father passed away this past May 21st at the VA Nursing Home in Northport, New York of Congestive Heart Failure. Dad was 95 years old. His funeral was this past May 24th and we buried him in the Calverton National Cemetery in Wading River with Military Honors.

Dad is survived by his son Steven with his daughter-in-law Karen and myself. Joe was a USAF Veteran, former POW, Purple Heart recipient, marathon runner and dedicated beer drinker.

As a final note, Dad was also a long time member of the Pyramidiers 98th Bomb Group Veterans Association and attended many of the past group reunions over the years. I was fortunate to also have attended several of them with Dad as his guest.

To conclude, Joe was well loved and respected by all who knew him.

Time ran out as he used to say, yet he will be sorely missed by his children. As for me, I miss my friend.

I hope that you will find this information about Dad helpful and interesting.

All the best,

Joe Abbondondelo
7/3/19

JOIN US FOR THE 2019 REUNION

Beginning on the opposite page and continuing through the rest of the newsletter, please find all the pertinent details regarding our September Reunion in Dallas. We hope you'll join us! We thank those listed below who joined us and helped make our 2018 Reunion in Gettysburg a memorable gathering!

2018 GETTYSBURG ATTENDEES

L Name	F Name	SQD	AC	City	State
Brown	Ken	OMS	53-2379	Lumberton	NJ
Brown	Sue	OMS	53-2379	Lumberton	NJ
Gerfen	John	343	B-29	Port St Lucie	FL
Conley	Patricia	343	B-29	Port St Lucie	FL
Hambry	Robert	A&E	B-47	Salisbury	MD
Hayes	Lura	345	B-24	Marysville	OH
Hayes	Bill	345	B-24	Marysville	OH
Hegadus	Arlene	343	B-47	Lincoln	NE
Hegadus	Jack	343	B-47	Lincoln	NE
Hensel	Bonnie	415	B-24	York	PA
Hensel	Joan	344	B-24	York	PA
Hobbs	Kim	513	B-24	Hennessey	OK
Ladislav	Bob	OMS	B-47	Enon	OH
Ladislav	Marion	OMS	B-47	Enon	OH
Mioduszewski	Suzanne	345	B-24	Ann Arbor	MI
Newton	Glen	343	B-47	Yuba City	CA
Newton	Millie	343	B-47	Yuba City	CA
Palmer	Art	343	B-24	Mount Vernon	WA
Mayer	Mary Kate	343	B-24	Wasilla	AK
Johnston	Paul	343	B-24	Wasilla	AK
Simpson	Jack	343	B-24		
Simpson	Joanne	343	B-24		
Potter	Ron	AREFS	KC-139	Green Valley	AZ
Potter	Carol	AREFS	KC-139	Green Valley	AZ
Rawlings	Judith	344	B-24	Cynthiana	KY
Rawlings	Melinda	344	B-24	Cynthiana	KY
Rivas	Sharon	345	B-47E	Plattsmouth	NE
Rivas	Frank	345	B-47E	Plattsmouth	NE
Schinsing	Bob	345	B-29	Newark	NY
Schinsing	Simone	345	B-29	Oceano	CA
Selders	John	345	B-24	Bloomsburg	PA
Staudenmeier	Wynn	343	B-24	Ashland	PA
Tejeda	Barbara	415	B-24	San Diego	CA
Tejeda	Alex	415	B-24	San Diego	CA
West	Linda	343	B-24	Fairborn	OH
West	Bill	343	B-24	Fairborn	OH
Whelin	Lily	345	B-29	San Pablo	CA
Whelin	Jack	345	B-29	San Pablo	CA
Whelin	Paloma	345	B-29	San Pablo	CA

THE 2019 BOMB GROUPS REUNION

Thursday, September 19 – Sunday, September 22, 2019

Dallas, Texas

Host hotel is The Wyndham Garden Dallas North Hotel

2645 Lyndon B Johnson Freeway, Dallas, TX, 75234



For general information, the hotel website is:

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham-garden/dallas-texas/wyndham-garden-dallas-north/overview>

This is the same hotel where we received outstanding service and rates in 2016.

Due to the hotel's already low rate and an incentive from the municipality of Farmers Branch, we are receiving a **VERY SPECIAL ROOM RATE OF \$71.20** (per night + taxes) for single, double or ADA accessible rooms.

Reserve your room online now by using the link:

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/groups/gn/bombardment-reunion-20191>

You may also reserve by calling Reservations Manager Kharin Hanes at the hotel's in-house reservations desk. Call 214-239-3654 Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:00AM- 5:00PM, Central Standard Time.

- Mention you are reserving with Bombardment Reunion 2019 to receive the group rate.

- If you have mobility issues, ask Kharin for a room with the shortest walk to the hotel lobby.
- If you need an ADA accessible room, be sure to ask.
- If you have these or any other special requests, you must ask otherwise they will not know how to help you.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY AUGUST 16, 2019.

Reservations after that date are NOT guaranteed at the group rate and are subject to room availability. Please make your reservations before that date and if you need to cancel for any reason, you may do so WITHOUT PENALTY if you cancel by 6:00PM CST on the day before your arrival.

- The group rate is available between September 16-24, 2019
- A full, hot breakfast buffet for two is included with each room. Additional persons in a room may purchase the buffet for only \$5 per person.
- Parking is plentiful and complimentary.
- The hotel shuttle is available for BOTH Love Field and DFW airports.

2019 Bomb Groups Reunion Events and Activities

Thursday, 9/19 Arrival and Check-In Day

Registration desk and hospitality room opens mid-morning. There will be deli sandwiches, various snacks and drinks throughout the day. During the evening there will be an optional informal welcome dinner followed by a short welcome and information meeting. The mayor of Farmers Branch will likely be there to welcome our group. The hospitality room will reopen after the dinner meeting until ??

Friday, 9/20

A tour of **AT&T/Cowboys Stadium**, complete with a gourmet lunch and drinks in the fabulous Stadium Club. You will be amazed at this incredible facility which is arguably the plushiest and most expansive sports arena in existence. Many wheelchairs will be available for use. Friday evening will feature the Individual Group Dinners.

Saturday, 9/21

A Ladies Crafts Demo will be held, led by Nancy Clifton, 483rd BGA.

Veterans Presentations today.

Fifteenth Army Air Force veterans and Historians are invited to share their experiences and stories. If you are a veteran who is interested in participating in this event, please notify your group coordinator to make arrangements. This is always a very special time.



AT&T/Cowboys Stadium

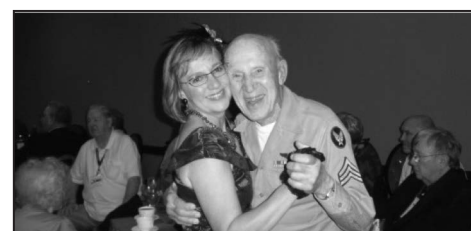
A **veterans group picture** will be taken shortly before the banquet. Veterans attending the 2018 Bomb Groups Reunion are pictured below.



2019 Bomb Groups Reunion Events and Activities

Saturday, 9/21 *(continued from previous page)*

During the evening we will have the **All Groups Banquet** followed by musical entertainment provided by **Ladies Liberty**. *(An Andrews Sisters type USO show—very good)*



The Hospitality Room will reopen following the evening's activities.

Sunday, 9/22

First thing in the morning there will be an optional church service. Following the church service and a short break there will be a traditional Military Memorial Ceremony led by our reunion Chaplain, Captain/Chaplain Chris Cairns.



Following lunch on your own (the hotel restaurant is planning some delicious lunch specials for us) we will tour the **Frontiers of Flight** museum.



During the evening, we will cap off the reunion with an informal **Farewell Fajitas** dinner. The hospitality room reopens after dinner until ??

**Join Us in Dallas
this September!**

2019 BOMB GROUPS REUNION AGENDA

Thursday, 9/19 Arrival and Check-In Day

Registration desk and hospitality room is open from mid-morning- ?? There will be deli sandwiches, various snacks and drinks throughout the day.

6:30 – An optional informal welcome dinner (most likely an Italian buffet with extra help to carry plates for our folks) followed by a short welcome and information meeting. The mayor of Farmers Branch will likely be there to welcome our group.

The hospitality room will reopen after the dinner meeting until ??

Friday, 9/20

9:00 AM – Depart the hotel to tour AT&T/Cowboys Stadium, have lunch and return to the hotel by about 3:00 PM.

5:00 PM – Social hour for Individual Group Dinners beginning with a cash bar at about 5:00 PM with dinner served at 6:00 PM.

Hospitality room will reopen after the Individual Group Dinners and remain open until ??

Saturday, 9/21

8:30 – 9:45 AM – Ladies Crafts Demo

Veterans Presentations today. Times TBD but will have about a 15 minute bathroom break in between each session and lunch break of 1-1 ½ hours at mid-day.

5:00 PM – Veterans group picture taking. Location TBD.

5:15 PM – All Groups Banquet Social Hour; Cash bar opens. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM

7:00 PM – Musical entertainment provided by Ladies Liberty. (An Andrews Sisters type USO show, very good)

8:30 PM – Program ends, hospitality room reopens until ??

Sunday, 9/22

8:30 AM – Optional Church Service

10:00 AM – Military Memorial Ceremony led by our reunion Chaplain, Captain/Chaplain Chris Cairns.

1:00 PM – Depart hotel for tour of Frontiers of Flight museum.

4:00 PM – Depart the FOF museum for return to the hotel.

6:00 PM – Informal Farewell dinner. Hospitality room reopens after dinner until ??

Please use the form on the opposite page to register for the 2019 Bomb Groups Reunion. Please see page 11 for hotel information and how to reserve your room(s).

BOMB GROUPS REUNION

September 19—22, 2019 Dallas, Texas



Veteran/Fallen Hero _____ Group 98th Sqdn _____ Highest Rank _____

Registrant Name: _____ (One Form per Registration Packet)

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Name Tag Names (Include Veteran Relationship): _____

Registration fee # people _____ @ \$15.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH—Welcome dinner, Italian Buffet

people _____ @ @28.50 Sub Total \$ _____

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH—Tour AT&T Dallas Cowboys Stadium with gourmet lunch & drinks

people _____ @ \$85.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Individual Group Dinners

Grilled Filet 10oz. # people _____ @ \$37.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Grilled Salmon # people _____ @ \$28.50 each Sub Total \$ _____

Eggplant Parmesan # people _____ @ \$28.50 each Sub Total \$ _____

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

All Groups Banquet

New York Strip 12 Oz # people _____ @ \$34.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Rosemary Lemon Chicken # people _____ @ \$28.50 each Sub Total \$ _____

Vegetarian Tart (Chef's Choice of Veggies) # people _____ @ \$28.50 each Sub Total \$ _____

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND

Lunch on your own today. Tour in afternoon

Tour Frontiers of Flight Museum # people _____ @ \$29.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Farewell Dinner—Farewell Fajitas # people _____ @ \$30.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

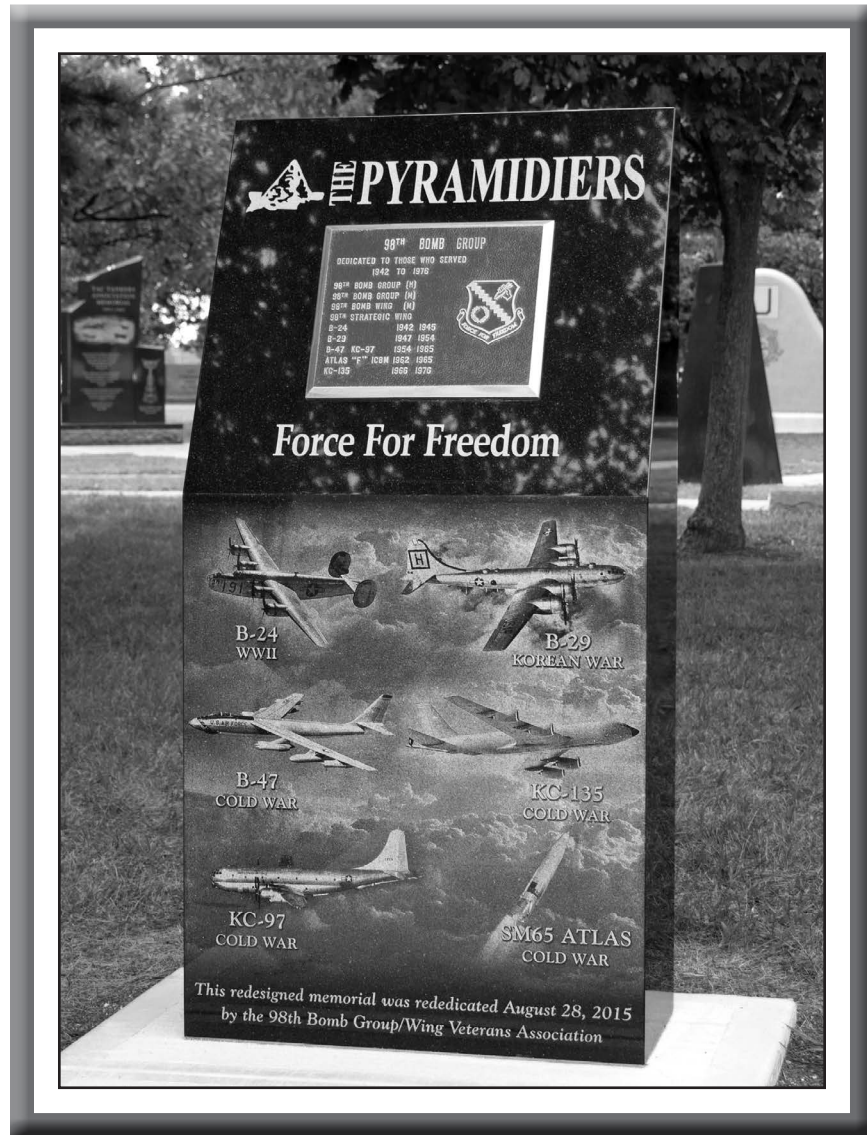
Do you need a wheelchair? Yes _____ No _____ GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone # _____

Please send this form along with your check payable to Bomb Groups Reunion to:
Bomb Groups Reunion Attn: Suzanne Mioduszewski 1137 Joyce Lane, Ann Arbor, MI 48103



THE PYRAMIDIERS



FORCE FOR FREEDOM

Join Us in Dallas, TX, September 19–22, 2019
for Our Next Reunion